



Memorandum

To: Salt Lake County Councilmembers
From: Mayor's Administration
Subject: Proposed \$2Million Contribution
Date: October 5, 2021

Jennifer Wilson
Mayor

Erin Litvack
Deputy Mayor, County
Services

Darrin Casper
Deputy Mayor, Finance
& Administration

Catherine Kanter
Deputy Mayor,
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\$2 Million COVID-19 Contribution Request to Partially Fund the Purchase and Renovation of the Airport Inn by Friends of Switchpoint, Inc.

Overview: With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, there has been a documented increase in the homelessness population in Salt Lake County, as evidenced by the past three annual "point in time" counts required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. For example, the most recent January 2021 COVID-19 observation count identified a substantial increase of unsheltered individuals (rising from 268 unsheltered individuals in 2020 to 623 in 2021¹). This dramatic increase in unsheltered individuals is no doubt attributable to the disproportionate effect the COVID-19 virus has had on our already vulnerable populations. Shelters and Resource Centers are operating at capacity and doing their best to keep community members safe and healthy, but there remains an urgent need to address this housing crisis, particularly as COVID-19 cases continue to rise and the winter months are quickly approaching.

In 2020, Salt Lake County opened quarantine and isolation facilities, including by leasing vacant hotels, to maintain the health and safety of our homeless population. Those operations have since been shut down, and the housing community is actively pursuing opportunities to meet the outstanding critical need. The Mayor's Administration is recommending participation in the following program as a means of addressing our homeless crisis, as well as to reduce the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Program Summary: [The Friends of Switchpoint Inc., d/b/a/ Switchpoint Community Resource Center](#) (Switchpoint), is a homeless service provider, originally based in St. George, Utah, that expanded into the Salt Lake area last year when it opened a winter overflow shelter at the then shuttered Airport Inn Hotel, located at 2333 West North Temple. At that time, Switchpoint was leasing the property and it is now under contract to purchase the facility, with an expected closing date of no later than the end of this year (December 31, 2021). If purchased, the facility will be remodeled and run as a non-congregant housing opportunity for the unsheltered homeless population, to be known as "The Point." The renovated facility will house 130 homeless individuals in studio style apartment units on a short-term rental basis. The occupants will also receive training and will be placed in nearby employment opportunities.

¹ The unsheltered point in time count for 2020 for was 268 and for 2019 the count was 193. State of Utah Annual Report on Homelessness.

The total estimated cost for the project is \$9,500,000 (\$6,500,000 for the hotel acquisition and \$3,000,000 for the renovations). To date, Switchpoint has raised \$4,000,000 for the project and has requests out for the remaining funds (see Sources and Use Statement attached). Switchpoint has requested a \$2,000,000 contribution from Salt Lake County, and the Mayor's Administration is recommending approval of that request, to be paid out of the County's COVID Recovery Budget. There is also a project request in the amount of \$3,000,000 pending with the State of Utah Governor's Office of Planning & Budget's COVID-19 Local Assistance Matching Program. Upon completion, this project will serve as a much-needed addition to the inventory of housing options required to address the limited capacity of existing facilities serving our homeless community.

Attachment – Sources and Use Statement

FRIENDS OF SWITCHPOINT SOURCES & USES STATEMENT

SOURCES	AMOUNT
CONFIRMED	
Salt Lake City	\$2,000,000
Private Contributions	\$2,000,000
TOTAL CONFIRMED	\$4,000,000
REQUESTED - NOT CONFIRMED	
State GOPB Match Program	\$3,000,000
Salt Lake County	\$2,000,000
Seeking Additional Contributions	\$500,000
TOTAL REQUESTED - NOT CONFIRMED	\$5,500,000
TOTAL CONFIRMED/REQUESTED	\$9,500,000
USES	AMOUNT
Acquisition of Hotel	\$6,500,000
Renovations & Construction	\$3,000,000
Total Use Costs	\$9,500,000