



SPECIAL MEETING

Commission on Homelessness

Monday, February 1, 2016, 3:00 p.m.

Oxnard City Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street, Oxnard CA 93030

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT.** A person may address the Commission only on matters on the Special Meeting agenda. The presiding officer shall limit public comments to three (3) minutes per speaker. Public Comments will be heard during the Commission consideration of the item on the agenda.

3. INFORMATION/CONSENT ITEMS

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Meeting of January 11, 2016

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes of meeting of January 11, 2016.

4. REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

SUBJECT: Winter Warming Shelter

SUBJECT: FY 2016-17 Funding Process for Entitlement Grants

SUBJECT: VASH Vouchers

5. STUDY SESSION

SUBJECT: Veterans' Homelessness; Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission conduct a Study Session and receive public comment on issues related to homeless veterans and the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

6. NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: Policy Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission discuss and formulate recommendations for policies and actions related to Veterans' homelessness and the Ten Year Plan to End homelessness; and authorize and direct the Chair to present the Commission's recommendations to the Homeless Committee and City Council.

7. COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and City of Oxnard policy, if you need special assistance to participate in a meeting, please call 385-8095 (TDD 487-2850). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will assist the City in making reasonable arrangements to ensure meeting accessibility.

**City of Oxnard
Commission on Homelessness
DRAFT Minutes of the Special Meeting of
January 11, 2016**

On Monday, January 11, 2016, at 4:05 p.m. the Special Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened in the Council Chambers at 305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA 93030. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Chair Peggy Rivera; Vice-Chair Felipe Flores; and Commissioners Susan Brinkmeyer, Francine Castañon, Francisco Jaena, and Lucy Martinez. Commissioner Darlene Miller Gonzalez was absent with excuse. City of Oxnard staff members present were Karl Lawson, Housing Department, who acted as Executive Secretary; and Officer Jacob Jundef of the Oxnard Police Department.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was deemed present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Larry Dennis addressed the Commission. He stated that he was homeless, and recommended that the Commission conduct more outreach directly to homeless individuals to invite them to the Commission's meetings. Mr. Dennis also inquired about the status of the homeless shelter building matching fund (referring to the county of Ventura fund of approximately \$1,000,000, which is dedicated to the construction of homeless shelter); whether the City of Oxnard had applied for the use of such funds; and whether any funds from other sources, such as private donations or organizations, could be used for the match. Mr. Dennis was informed that the County fund does exist, that it requires a 2 for 1 match, and that neither the City of Oxnard nor an organization from Oxnard had applied to utilize the County match. Mr. Lawson advised that the upcoming Needs Assessment public hearing before the Oxnard City Council (originally scheduled for January 12, but now re-scheduled to January 26, 2016) presented an opportunity for community members to advocate for a project that would be eligible to apply for the County's matching funds.

3. INFORMATION CONSENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2015

Commissioner Brinkmeyer moved approval of the minutes as presented in the agenda packet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Castañon, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

A. SUBJECT: WINTER WARMING SHELTER

Mr. Lawson provided a verbal update on the operation of the Winter Warming Shelter at the Oxnard National Guard Armory, and distributed a report detailing the number of persons utilizing the shelter, night-by-night, from December 1, 2015 to January 10, 2016 (Attachment No. 1 to these minutes). Commissioner Martinez requested a breakdown of the number of individuals by City, and Commissioner Jaena requested additional demographic breakdown. Staff pledged to obtain and forward that information to Commission. Ms. Amanda Herrera, from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, advised that

as of early January, the number of unduplicated individuals who had utilized the shelter was up to 425; and that the total number of shelter-stays for the 2014-15 WWS in the same period was 4109 (compared to approximately 3250 this year).

B. SUBJECT: HOMELESS COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2015

Mr. Lawson reported that the City Council Subcommittee known as the Homeless Committee, consisting of Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Ramirez and Councilwoman Dorina Padilla, had met on December 14, 2015. At that meeting, the Homeless Committee received the Commission on Homelessness Resolutions that had been adopted on December 7, 2015. Mr. Lawson advised that the Homeless Committee expressed support for giving priority to addressing homeless issues in the allocation of entitlement grant funds (Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Act, and Emergency Solutions Grant programs). In addition, the Homeless Committee recommended that a Study Session be scheduled before the full City Council to define what the City's mission is with respect to homelessness, and what the long-range objectives are for City programs that address different aspects of homelessness.

C. SUBJECT: POINT IN TIME COUNT OF JANUARY 26, 2016

Mr. Ron Irwin, of Community Action of Ventura County, reported to the Commission that his organization was one of the lead organizations for this year's Point In Time (PIT) count. He reported that at least 40 more volunteers were needed for the 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. shift in Oxnard, and encouraged anyone interested in volunteering to do so by going to volunteerventura.org as soon as possible. Mr. Lawson advised that the PIT training sessions would take place on Wednesday, January 13, and Thursday, January 14, at 5:00 p.m. at the Oxnard Public Library; and a daytime session on Thursday the 14th at 12:00 noon at the City of Oxnard Human Resources Activity Room, 300 West Third Street, First Floor.

5. NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: 2016-17 ENTITLEMENT GRANT FUNDING

Mr. Lawson directed the Commission's attention to staff report at Page 031 of the agenda packet, and provided a verbal summary on the funding cycle for CDBG, HOME, and ESG grants. Applications for funding from non-profits, service providers, or other entities will be made available at the pre-application seminars scheduled for January 19 and January 21, with applications due in late February. Staff requested that the Commission appoint a designee and an alternate to serve as its representative to the City's proposal review panel. Following discussion, the Commission unanimously designated Commissioner Brinkmeyer as the COH representative, and Commissioners Castañon and Martinez as first and second alternates, respectively.

6. OLD BUSINESS

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS ON PANHANDLING, VETERANS HOMELESSNESS, AND TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Chair Rivera opened the discussion the three topics which were held over from the Commission's December 7, 2015 Study Session.

- (a) Panhandling: Officer Jacob Jundef of the Oxnard Police Department addressed the issue of panhandling; described current procedures and provisions of the state Penal Code; and that certain first amendment issues arise in the enforcement of ordinances that regulate what people can say. Officer Jundef further advised that a draft revision to the Oxnard City Code provisions addressing panhandling was pending in the Office of the City Attorney; and that the draft ordinance was based on best practices as utilized in other jurisdictions. Mr. Lawson advised that staff could not predict when any such revision might be presented to the City Council.

Mr. Irwin reported that CAVC was assigning a caseworker to the Oxnard downtown area, and that CAVC had developed a card which persons or businesses can hand to panhandlers, advising the recipient where to locate resources for food, showers, etc.

The Commission engaged in a discussion on the matter of panhandling, expressing support for an ordinance that will restrict aggressive soliciting while allowing permissible free speech. Chair Rivera and Commissioner Castañon advised that the Commission and the Homeless Committee had tackled this issue in approximately 2012 or 2013, and requested that staff research the actions taken at that time and report back to the full Commission.

In response to questioning from the Commission, Officer Jundef reported on a situation which arose at the corner of "A" Street and Magnolia. A squatter, who was not homeless, moved his auto repair business to a vacant lot at that corner, illegally stole electric power from a neighboring business, set up propane tanks and other equipment, and began living in an RV on the site. No permits for any of this operation were applied for nor obtained. Code Compliance and the Police have taken corrective action against both the individual and the owner of the vacant lot.

- (b) Veterans' Homelessness: Mr. Lawson reported that the Continuum of Care was hosting a workshop on technical assistance for expediting the housing of homeless veterans on Thursday, January 14, at the County Government Center. The time is from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Following a discussion by Commissioners, the Commission agreed to invite Veterans Administration VASH specialist Colleen Babineau to the next Commission meeting to report on the implementation and utilization of VASH vouchers to help house homeless veterans.
- (c) Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness: The Commission requested that staff schedule a study session on the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, and agreed that start time of the February 1, 2016 meeting of the Commission be moved up to 3:00 p.m. in order to allow sufficient time for the study session.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

The following events were announced:

Wednesday, January 13 and Thursday, January 14: Point In Time volunteer training at the Oxnard Public Library, 5:00 p.m. (Wednesday) and 5:30 p.m. (Thursday). A session will also take place on Thursday at 12:00 noon at the City of Oxnard Human Resources Activity room.

Thursday, January 14: Continuum of Care meetings at United Way of Ventura County, at 8:30 a.m. (subcommittee) and 10:00 a.m. (full CoC).

Thursday, January 14: Veterans Homelessness, HUD Technical Training, County Government Center, 800 South Victoria, Ventura, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 14: Partners for Change meeting, 6:30 p.m., Pointsettia Pavilion, Ventura.

Saturday, January 23: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Oxnard Heritage Cultural Center will host a grant-writing workshop at the Center, Plaza Park, Oxnard.

Tuesday, January 26, 6:00 a.m.: Oxnard Point In Time Count convenes at 1500 Camino del Sol, Oxnard.

Tuesday, January 26, 6:00 p.m.: Oxnard City Council meeting, will include Public Hearing on Needs Assessment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Rivera declared the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

(Draft Minutes prepared by Karl Lawson)

Attachments:

Nightly Client Count at Winter Warming Shelter
From 12/1/15 through 1/10/16

12/1	56	
12/2	58	
12/3	56	
12/4	43	
12/5	50	
12/6	47	
12/7	62	Week 1 average: 53
12/8	64	
12/9	71	
12/10	62	
12/11	62	
12/12	81	
12/13	90	
12/14	97	Week 2 average: 75
12/15	88	
12/16	85	
12/17	87	
12/18	84	
12/19	85	
12/20	84	
12/21	89	Week 3 average: 86
12/22	97	
12/23	84	
12/24	69	
12/25	74	
12/26	86	
12/27	83	
12/28	85	Week 4 average: 82
12/29	92	
12/30	97	
12/31	85	
1/1/16	78	
1/2	67	
1/3	68	
1/4	78	Week 5 average: 81
1/5	91	
1/6	105	
1/7	108	
1/8	107	
1/9	103	
1/10	98	
1/11		Week 6 average to date: 102



TO: Honorable Members of the Commission on Homelessness

FROM: Karl Lawson, Executive Secretary 

DATE: January 25, 2016

SUBJECT: Study Session on Veterans' Homelessness and Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

I. RECOMMENDATION

That the Homeless Committee conduct a Study Session and receive public comment on issues related to homeless veterans and the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

II. DISCUSSION

1. Background

The powers and Duties of the COH, which are set forth in Section 2-129 of the Code, include the following:

- (A) Advise the City Council on all matters pertaining to homelessness in The City;
- (B) Serve as a liaison between the City Council and the community in matters related to homelessness issues;
- (C) Review and evaluate programs, requests for homeless funds, and homeless services in the City;
- (D) Recommend programs, strategies, and funding for preventing and reducing the incidence of homelessness in the City.

(Oxnard City Code, Chapter 2, Division 10)

At its meeting of December 7, 2015, the Commission conducted a Study Session and received public comment on a wide range of topics related to long-range strategies to

address homelessness. Approximately eighteen (18) recommendations were presented and discussed in the course of that meeting.

Following the study session, the COH conducted an open discussion focusing on twelve of the recommendations. Those twelve were grouped into three subject matter areas. The COH adopted three Resolutions which were presented to the City Council's Homeless Committee on December 14, 2015.

The three resolutions adopted did not address all of the recommendations. At the January 11, 2016 meeting, the Commission received additional public comment on matters related to panhandling. The Commission agreed to continue its deliberations on the topics of Veterans' homelessness and the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness at the meeting of February 1, 2016, and set an earlier start time to allow for full discussion.

2. Veterans Homelessness

The Commission recommended extending an invitation to the Veterans Administration representative for Ventura County to attend the February 1st Commission meeting. Staff has invited the VA staffperson who handles homeless veterans' VASH vouchers to attend and report to the Commission on the utilization of that program, as well as obstacles and proposed solutions. Staff will also present a brief report on the challenge to end veterans' homelessness issued by the federal government.

3. Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

The County of Ventura's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness is a lengthy document that has been provided to Commissioners at previous meetings. It is also available for public review on the county of Ventura's homeless Services website. Paper copies will be provided at the February 1, 2016 Commission meeting, and are available prior to the meeting from staff upon request (call 385-8095).

III. PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCT OF STUDY SESSION

Staff recommends that the Study Session be conducted in accordance with the following format:

- A. Staff report
- B. Receive Public Comment
- C. Discussion by Commissioners

Following the conclusion of the Discussion, the Commissioners can propose Policy Recommendations on matters discussed during the Study Session under Item 6: New Business of the meeting agenda.

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