



SPECIAL MEETING

Commission on Homelessness

Monday, January 11, 2016, 4:00 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 December 7, 2015 (001)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes of meeting of December 7, 2015.

4. REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

(A) **SUBJECT:** Winter Warming Shelter Update

(B) **SUBJECT:** Homeless Committee Meeting of December 14, 2015

(C) **SUBJECT:** Point In Time Count of January 26, 2016

5. NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: 2016-17 Entitlement Grant Funding (031)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission designate one Commissioner and one alternate to serve on the proposal review panel.

6. OLD BUSINESS

SUBJECT: Recommendations on Panhandling, Veterans Homelessness, and Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness (035)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission (1) formulate recommendations for policies and actions regarding (a) City Code provisions pertaining to panhandling; (b) homelessness among veterans; and (c) the County of Ventura Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness; and (2) authorize and direct the Chair to forward the Commission's recommendations to the Homeless Committee and City Council.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

8. 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
December 7, 2015**

On Monday, December 7, 2015, at 1:35 p.m. the Special Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened in the Oxnard City Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA 93030. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Chair Peggy Rivera; Vice-Chair Felipe Flores; and Commissioners Sue Brinkmeyer, Francisco Jaena, Lucy C. Martinez, and Frances Castañon. Commissioner Darlene Miller Gonzalez was absent with excuse. City of Oxnard staff members present included Karl Lawson, Oxnard Housing Department, who acted as Executive Secretary; Oxnard Police Officer Jacob Jundef; and Oxnard Police Commander Chris Williams.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was deemed present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Magda Weydt, the proprietor of the Fresh and Fabulous Restaurant in downtown Oxnard, addressed the Commission for the first time. Ms. Weydt suggested that informational brochures on services available for homeless persons be provided to downtown businesses and their staff, so that those businesses can assist and refer customers who are homeless.

3. INFORMATION/CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Brinkmeyer moved, and Chair Rivera seconded, approval of the minutes of the November 2, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

- (A) Winter Warming Shelter: Mr. Lawson provided an update on the December first opening of the Winter Warming Shelter (WWS). He introduced Mr. Steve Karnazes, of Advanced Tactical Training Institute, the shelter operator. Mr. Karnazes reported that in the first six nights of operation, the WWS had provided services to 105 unduplicated homeless persons, with the nightly census counts as follows:

Tuesday, 12/1:	56
Wednesday, 12/2	58
Thursday, 12/3	55
Friday, 12/4	43
Saturday, 12/5	50
Sunday, 12/6	47

Mr. Karnazes explained the procedures for volunteering at the shelter, emphasizing that all volunteers must complete a 4-hour training course, and have a TB test and flu shot, prior to being able to enter or volunteer at the WWS. He also responded to questions from Commissioners on various aspects of the WWS operations.

Mr. Lawson informed the Commission that major funding for the WWS included the County of Ventura (\$104,000); the City of San Buenaventura (\$43,000); the City of Oxnard (\$50,000); and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (\$50,000). He thanked the many organizations that have provided and continue to provide valuable in-kind contributions, including the Ventura County Rescue Mission, Turning Point Foundation, California Military Department and the National Guard; Ventura County Public Health; Ventura County Behavioral Health; Oxnard Police Department; Ventura County Sheriff's Department and Emergency Operations; Ventura County Human Services Agency; Society of St. Vincent de Paul; Salvation Army; and the WWS' fiduciary agent, the Downtown Ventura Organization (DVO).

Mr. Lawson also emphasized that the WWS needed to raise an additional \$50,000 in order to be able to remain open through the end of March, 2016. Contributions can be made to the DVO either on-line (at www.downtownventura.org/shelter) or by mail to P. O. Box 1414, Ventura CA 93002; 805-641-1090. The only material donation items being accepted are socks, rain ponchos, personal hygiene kits, and jackets. There is no capacity to store or distribute goods at the WWS, since the Armory must be completely vacated every morning at 7:00 a.m.

5. STUDY SESSION

(A). Subject: Long Range Strategies to Address Homelessness

Chair Rivera declared the Study Session open. Mr. Lawson provided a slide show presentation to the Commission (reprinted as Attachment No. 1 to these minutes), and responded to questions from Commissioners.

Mr. Lawson introduced Tara Carruth, from the Office of the County of Ventura Chief Executive, manager of the county-wide Continuum of Care (CoC). Ms. Carruth provided a detailed verbal report on the CoC operations and funding, and distributed a document setting forth the program components of the CoC "Strategies in Ending Homelessness" report, along with a draft document on CoC Mission, Values, Guiding Principles, Outcome Goals, and subcommittee structure and their objectives (Attachment No. 2 to these minutes). Ms. Carruth invited all members of the Commission, elected officials, service providers and members of the public to the next full CoC meeting, which will take place on Thursday, January 21, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Ventura County Community Foundation building in Camarillo. She also responded to questions from Commissioners.

(The Commission took a brief recess at 2:35 p.m., and reconvened at 2:47 p.m.)

Chair Rivera opened the public testimony portion of the Study Session. Commander Chris Williams of the Oxnard Police Department introduced himself to the Commission, along with Officer Jacob Jundef, who has been designated to work specifically on homeless issues. Commander Williams informed the Commissioners that Police Chief Jeri Williams had authorized the appointment of a second homeless services officer to work with Officer Jundef. Commander Williams invited the Commission and all interested to attend a presentation to the Downtown Business Improvement District by Officer Jundef at Heritage Square on Thursday, December 10, 2015, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Salvador Gonzalez addressed the Commission next and presented a document setting forth comments of Homeless Commissioner Darlene M. Gonzalez, who was unable to attend the meeting (Attachment No. 3), along with a binder containing back-up documentation (copies available upon request). Mr. Gonzalez discussed long range strategies; the move from shelters to the Housing First approach, and possible conflict with the City's Housing Element, urging the COH to provide input to the Housing Element process. He offered several specific recommendations that he asked the COH to adopt, including: (1) that the City's Density Bonus ordinance be updated; (2) that the City invest financial resources into a year-round shelter; (3) that a Request for Proposals be issued for a year-round shelter;

that the COH monitor Oxnard Housing Authority's compliance with HUD Notice PIH-2013-15 pertaining to preference for homeless persons; (4) the COH monitor to ensure that the OHA does not exclude applicants on the basis of arrest records (per HUD Notice PIH-2015-19); and (5) that the City not criminalize homelessness. Mr. Gonzalez also responded to inquiries from the Commission.

Mr. Paul Drake from the Phoenix Foundation addressed the Commission next. Mr. Drake stated that he had worked with the RAIN Project and was currently working with homeless veterans, conducting street outreach. He noted the need for mental health services for veterans, and urged that funding for housing for these individuals needed to have a mental health service component.

Mr. Abel Magaña of the Downtown Business Improvement District commended the Commission for its outreach and positive approach to receiving comments on issues related to homelessness, and pledged his organizations input and involvement.

Mr. Mike Sanchez, representing Coastal Architects, addressed the Commission at the invitation of Commissioner Jaena. He presented drawings with elevation views of a 19-unit low-income housing project that his firm has designed to be built in South Oxnard, near Bard and Johnson. Mr. Sanchez commented on the density bonus, parking requirements, the AAHOP process, and "urban village" design. He responded to several questions from Commissioners. Mr. Sanchez recommended that the City incentivize production of more affordable housing, by adopting a point system that rewards installation of solar, LEED, onsite water retention, and other features.

Mr. Ron Irwin, of Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC), a homeless services provider, spoke regarding the clientele of the CAVC as not only including the homeless, but also businesses, public safety, and the community at large. Mr. Irwin notified the COH of the expanded CAVC Transition Center hours, which have been increased to be able to help during those times when the Winter Warming Shelter is closed (Attachment No. 4). He also described the various needs and services, including health services, employment, kinship placements, and CAVC's offer to provide temporary transitional shelter at its location on 621 Richmond Avenue (requesting the Commission's assistance with obtaining approval to operate).

Mr. Miguel Marquez, Independent Living Resource Center, addressed the issue of full access by disabled persons to the Winter Warming Shelter. Mr. Marquez specifically requested that the WWS staff recognize that language barriers may exist for certain disabled persons, and urged the WWS to take time to speak with all clients in a way that is effective and respectful.

Ms. Eileen Tracy recommended that the Commission address the issue of in-lieu fees. She opined that the ILF structure is too low to provide resources sufficient to produce the amount of affordable housing that is needed; and that there is no net gain if ILF funds are used to replace pre-existing low-income public housing that is being demolished. Ms. Tracy suggested that if the ILF is not increased, the Commission should recommend that ILFs be eliminated entirely, thereby requiring developers to include affordable units in their developments. With respect to the OHA, she recommended that the Commission request that the OHA report as to how it is complying with the HUD requirements to give preference to homeless persons and disabled persons. Mr. Tracy also inquired about what steps are being taken to produce a replacement for the WWS for the winter of 2016-17, and asked whether the city coordinates with the County Behavioral Health on the latter's plans for Permanent Supportive Housing.

Mr. Doug Stanton, Architect, spoke to the Commission on the larger issue of the role of the City in addressing homelessness, urging an expansion of that mission. Mr. Stanton recommended (a) that the COH request proposals for a year-round shelter, (b) restoring the homeless services coordinator position; and (c) study obstacles to a year-round shelter. He also specifically recommended that the

COH and City re-evaluate the policy of separate zoning sites for night-time shelters and day-time services for homeless persons, arguing that on-site wrap-around services are optimum. Mr. Stanton also urged the Commission to understand the various reasons that people become homeless, and to focus on strategies to reduce income inequality.

At the conclusion of the public testimony portion of the Study Session, the Commission discussion commenced. Mr. Lawson responded to several comments and questions from the Commissioners, including an earlier inquiry from Commissioner Martinez on the matter of the City Code sections that pertain to panhandling. He reported that the City Attorney was in the process of preparing several proposed revisions to the City Code, to be presented sometime next year to the Council. Those revisions may address the current code sections on panhandling.

With respect to vouchers and homeless veterans, Mr. Lawson distributed a report detailing the OHA program for vouchers for homeless persons (Attachment No. 5). In addition, a report entitled "10 Strategies to End Veteran Homelessness" and a letter dated December 7, 2015 from First Lady Michelle Obama were also distributed to the Commission (Attachments No. 6 and No. 7).

Commissioner Jaena provided a report to the Commission on his analysis of the number of affordable housing units that could be produced under the current zoning and Housing Element. He provided a copy of a summary of his analysis (reproduced herein as Attachment No. 8).

(At 3:10 and 3:50 p.m., respectively, Commissioner Flores and Commissioner Martinez departed).

6. NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: Policy Recommendations

Chair Rivera opened the Commission discussion on the formulation of recommendations to Council. In the course of the discussion, the Commission called to the microphone and posed inquiries to Mr. Stanton; Officer Jundef; and Ms. Karol Schulkin of the County of Ventura Human Services Agency.

Commissioner Brinkmeyer presented a document (Attachment No. 9) with several suggestions, including a list of ten draft recommendations, which she moved that the Commission adopt. Prior to receiving a second, possible amendments to the motion were discussed by the Commission. Commissioner Castañon recommended that the motion include a requirement that the CDBG and ESG funds be dedicated to a shelter to include wrap-around services.

The various recommendations offered by speakers were listed, discussed, and grouped with some of the recommendations on Attachment No. 9. The original motion was amended to consolidate some of the recommendations into three groupings.

In accordance therewith, Commissioner Brinkmeyer withdrew her original motion, and made a motion that the Commission recommend the following immediate steps to the City Council:

- (1) That homeless shelter and services should be the top priority in the awarding of federal funds by the City in the 2016-17 fiscal year;
- (2) That the staff be directed to issue an RFP for a year-round shelter with services; and
- (3) That the City lobby state and federal representatives for funding for a year-round shelter with services.

The motion was seconded, and passed with four votes in favor (Chair Rivera, and Commissioners Brinkmeyer, Castañon, and Jaena), with no opposition and no abstentions. The motion as adopted is set forth in Resolution No. 2015-02 (Attachment No. 10 to these minutes).

With respect to long-range strategies, Commissioner Brinkmeyer moved that the Commission also recommend that the City Council do the following:

- (1) Direct staff to analyze in-lieu fees to maximize affordable housing production;
- (2) Direct the Oxnard Housing Authority to study and implement preference for homeless and disabled persons for Section 8 and Public Housing;
- (3) That the City coordinate fully with the Continuum of Care; and
- (4) That the City fill the position of homeless services coordinator.

The motion was seconded, and passed with four votes in favor (Chair Rivera, and Commissioners Brinkmeyer, Castañon, and Jaena), with no opposition and no abstentions. The motion as adopted is set forth in Resolution No. 2015-03 (Attachment No. 11 to these minutes).

In addition, Commissioner Brinkmeyer moved that the Commission recommend that the City Council adopt the following Commission recommendations related to principles to increase the production and supply of affordable housing:

Prioritize expenditure, and incentivize:

- (1) Development of housing for extremely-low and very-low income households, via expansion of AAHOP zones;
- (2) Development of permanent supportive housing units;
- (3) Permit non-traditional housing structures, such as shipping container housing, motel conversions, other re-purposed housing, second units/granny flats, and single-room occupancy units;
- (4) Increased use/acceptance by landlords of housing vouchers, including applying different screening requirements for voucher-holders who have been homeless; and
- (5) Increased funding for homelessness prevention (rental assistance and utility assistance).

The motion was seconded, and passed with four votes in favor (Chair Rivera, and Commissioners Brinkmeyer, Castañon, and Jaena), with no opposition and no abstentions. The motion as adopted is set forth in Resolution No. 2015-04 (Attachment No. 12 to these minutes).

Staff recommended that the Commission resume its discussion, and consideration of other proposed recommendations, at its January meeting. Those discussion items concern veterans' homelessness; the panhandling ordinance and other possible City Code revisions that impact homelessness; and the ten-year plan to end homelessness.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Rivera declared the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

(Draft Minutes prepared by Karl Lawson)



**City of Oxnard
Homeless Services Program**

December 7, 2015



Outline of Today's Presentation:

- 1. Overview of City Homeless Services**
- 2. Winter Warming Shelter**
- 3. Commission on Homelessness**
- 4. Vouchers (VASH and Housing Authority)**
- 5. Continuum of Care**



**Program Statement from
2015-16 City Budget**

"Homeless services is responsible for administering the Emergency Solutions Grant, which provides funding to non-profit agencies providing services to homeless individuals in the City. Homeless services staff is also responsible for providing staff support to the City's Commission on Homelessness, a seven-member board formed to advise the City Council on issues related to homelessness."



Homeless Program Staffing History

Through FY 2013-14: Full-time Homeless Assistance Program Coordinator position.

2014-15: Position vacant; duties divided among three Housing Department employees. City also contracted with City of Ventura to add Peter Brown on a half-time basis



Homeless Staffing - Continued

May 2015: Compliance Services Manager assumes all homeless duties. Full-time Homeless position eliminated in 2015-16 budget.

Oct. 2015: Contract for half-time staffer ends



**Homeless Services:
City Resources Budgeted, FY 2015-16**

ESG Funding: \$176,878

Staff: 31% of one FTE



**2015-16 ESG
Funding Allocations**

Turning Point Foundation: \$40,000
Community Action: \$44,731
The Kingdom Center: \$30,000

VC Human Services Agency:
Homeless Prevention: \$22,000
Rapid Re-Housing: \$33,000
HMIS: \$7147



**City Provision of Direct Services to
Homeless Individuals:**

None



Winter Warming Shelter

2014-15: \$45,000 CDBG funding (Armory rental)

2015-16: No funds budgeted for WWS.

October 28, 2015: Council approves \$40,000 one-time expenditure from Housing Department reserve fund for WWS.

December 8, 2015: Proposal to allocate \$10,000 from unexpended CDBG funds for WWS.



**COMMISSION ON
HOMELESSNESS**

**Citizen Advisory Group (C.A.G.)
Chartered by City Council**



**COMMISSION POWERS
AND DUTIES (City Code Sec. 2-129)**

- (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;**

(more...)



**COMMISSION POWERS
AND DUTIES (Continued)**

- (D) Recommend programs, strategies, and funding for preventing and reducing the incidence of homelessness in the city; and**
- (E) Prepare and submit an annual report of activities to the City Council and make such other reports and recommendations to the City Council from time to time as the Commission or City Council may determine necessary to address the homelessness issues.**



COMMISSION COMPOSITION

Commissioners appointed by Mayor, with approval of the City Council; terms expire in month of March

Commission has seven members.

Quorum to conduct business: 4



Meetings of the Commission on Homelessness

- First Monday of every month, 4:00 p.m. (exception: January 11, 2016 meeting date)
- Meeting Agenda disseminated no later than the Thursday prior to meeting
- If no quorum is present, Commission can take no action



COH Recommendations to City Council

1. Commission adopts recommendation
2. COH presents recommendations to City Council-appointed Homeless Committee (next meeting: Monday, Dec. 14, 2015, 5:00 p.m., City Council Chambers)
3. Council Homeless Committee acts on recommendation for referral to full City Council.



Coordination with Other Agencies

- Oxnard Housing Authority (15 set-aside vouchers for homeless; and VASH Vouchers for veterans)
- County Continuum of Care



Karl Lawson
Compliance Services Manager
Oxnard Housing Department
435 South "D" Street, Oxnard CA 93030
805-385-8095
karl.lawson@ci.oxnard.ca.us



Oxnard Housing Department

- Oxnard Housing Authority (780 Public Housing units, 1600 Section 8 Vouchers)
- Affordable Housing and Rehabilitation (First-Time Homebuyers, Property Rehab assistance)
- Mobilehome Rent Stabilization Program
- Fair Housing
- Grants Management
- Homeless Services

Ventura County Continuum of Care

Strategies in Ending Homelessness

The CoC program is designed to promote community commitment to ending homelessness by providing funding to non-profit or governmental partners to quickly rehouse persons experiencing homelessness. The CoC regulations include guidance for a governance structure, program requirements, partnerships with stakeholders, HMIS data requirements and best practices.

CoC funding is competitive funding with a yearly cycle. The CoC Board makes final recommendations for funding. Our local CoC is eligible for an annual renewal amount of 1.89 million dollars & were eligible for \$452,000 in Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus funding.

Funding decisions are made based on assessment of need, performance data, programs aligned with best practices.

Eligible program components: Safe Haven, Transitional Housing (no newly funded projects), Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing

How do we end homelessness in Ventura County?

Coordinate with ESG funders & other funding dedicated to homeless services

Fully implemented Coordinated Entry + HMIS integration

Prioritize limited resources to help those with the highest needs.

Housing First!

Focused planning around Opening Doors federal strategy

How can our City Partners Help?

Adopt homeless preference for housing voucher programs and public housing

Landlord recruitment/Incentivize landlords

Support creation of year-round crisis housing with housing-focused services.

De-criminalization of homelessness

Encourage all service providers to use HMIS

Very affordable housing creation

Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance

Mission Statement

The Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance is a collaborative group dedicated to promoting a safe, desirable and thriving community by ending homelessness in Ventura County.

Vision

Homelessness in Ventura County is rare, brief and nonrecurring.

Values

The dignity of every human life.

The well-being of the entire community.

The power of the community working together to solve community problems.

Guiding Principles

- Provide people experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible – and then provide the services as needed.
- Solving homelessness requires an adequate supply of housing that very low income people can afford.
- Homelessness is a high-risk condition that has severe impacts on each homeless person and on the larger community. For this reason, homelessness (even if by choice) is not acceptable.
- Homelessness is a condition, not a character trait, and homeless persons should be treated with respect and be offered every opportunity to improve their lives.
- Because of the complexity and uniqueness of each homeless person's situation, each homeless person must be engaged, assessed and evaluated for strengths and vulnerability, so that services can be offered to meet individualized needs.
- Service delivery is most effective when connected to meaningful engagement.
- Coordinated service maximizes positive impact on homeless individuals, is more economic and efficient, and minimizes duplication of services.
- Recognizing that some homeless persons have diminished capacity due to health or other issues, solutions to homelessness usually involve a mix of personal responsibility and social responsibility.
- Solutions to homelessness often require political will and governmental action.
- Ending homelessness can only occur with the support of all sectors of our community.
- Funding and programming decisions are results driven and evidence based.

Outcome Goals

1. End Veteran Homelessness by November 11, 2016 (Veteran's Day)
2. End Chronic Homelessness by December 31, 2017
3. End Family and Youth Homelessness by December 31, 2020
4. Set a Path to End All Types of Homelessness

Standing Committee Guidance

Data and Performance

1. Provide guidance to HMIS Lead on desired data collection and reporting requirements
2. Decisions are results driven with measureable outcomes
3. System wide data is transparent and displayed on website

HMIS Governance

1. HMIS becomes open system by 01/01/16
2. HMIS has "real-time" inventory of housing by 03/01/16

Housing and Services

1. Advocates for Housing First models (low barrier)
2. Creative Solutions
3. Landlord engagement

Public Information and Outreach

1. Create CoC website focused on Providers, Landlords and those that need assistance
2. Increase Landlord engagement/education
3. Educate community (destigmatize, community solutions for a community problem)

Ad HOC Committees

Veterans

1. All needed Releases of Information (ROI) in place by 12/31/15 (CoC, PHA's, VA)
2. By-name list of all homeless Veterans by 12/31/15
3. All VASH vouchers leased up by 2/28/16
4. Landlord Engagement (Elks, VFW, Veteran Landlords)

Coordinated Entry

1. Increase Diversion
2. Available housing always goes to most vulnerable (VI-SPDAT)
3. Rework regional hub approach to centralized/standardized approach

to COH 12/7/15

Comments
by
Homeless Commissioner Darlene M. Gonzalez
to
City of Oxnard
Commission on Homelessness
Regarding Long-Range Strategies to Address Homelessness
December 7, 2015

1. Comments Regarding Documents Provided

With the agenda, the Commission has received the following documents:

Recommendations of the Ventura Social Services Task Force from June 5, 2013.

Excerpt from the Oxnard City Code Chapter 7 regarding Nuisances

Notes from the Commission's Coordinated Services Ad-Hoc Sub committee.

According to the November 2 minutes, the documents have been provided to the Commission to serve as a basis for discussion of the needed long range strategies for homelessness.

The documents may be insufficient for the discussion on long-term strategies.

Critically missing are copies from the draft housing element which is still in draft form and needs to be finalized. Also, it would have been helpful to have been provided with copies of the report from the last retreat of the Commission (March 19, 2015). We need to remain consistent with those past actions, and if the Commission needs to make changes to those past actions to know what the Commission is changing, or what actions remain to be implemented.

Also, missing from the material that the Commission received is a copy of the 10 Year Strategies to End Homelessness. The agenda says that the study session will include the 10 Year Strategies to End Homelessness, but the Commission has not been provided with copies of the Strategies.

2. Comments regarding 10 Year Strategies

The first guiding principle in the 10 Year Strategies seems to clash with Oxnard's goal to develop a year round shelter. The principle says that we need to "shift away from providing more and more shelter and transitional housing for chronically homeless persons and moving towards providing permanent housing as quickly as possible ... a Housing First model." Oxnard's draft housing element explicitly says that one of Oxnard's housing goals is to support

the development of a year-round shelter.

Also, it is arguable whether a Housing First model is an effective way of providing housing for anyone where the units are not available in a community. For a Housing First model to work, existing affordable units need to be available. In 2014, the county experienced a vacancy rate of 2.5 percent in rental units, down from nearly 4 percent in January 2013. This has prompted landlords to aggressively raise rents, according to a Dyer Sheehan Group report. Oxnard also has the highest levels of overcrowded housing in Ventura County. So, there are some us who argue that a Housing First model will not work in Oxnard.

The simple and immediate answer to chronic homelessness is to build a year round shelter. The overall answer to homelessness and those living in overcrowded conditions is to develop more affordable housing, as laid out in the draft housing element.

The 10 Year Strategies for Oxnard need to be modified, especially the first guiding principle, to support the development of a year round shelter in Oxnard. Other provisions may also need to be changed so that there is some consistency between the 10 Year Strategies and the City's housing goals and objectives, as described in the draft housing element,

3. Comments Regarding the Housing Element

The draft Housing Element to the General Plan is by no means the most perfect document to guide future development of needed housing in the City, but is much better than anything else we have. It certainly has the benefit of being developed in accordance with State law and addresses the specific needs in the City.

With respect to the goal for development of a year round shelter, the Housing Element program to implement the goal can be strengthened by dedicating funding for development of the shelter (s), as the City of Los Angeles has done. Funding will make the goal more realistic, measurable and achievable.

The programs for development of the affordable housing goals can also be improved by incorporating more incentives and strengthening the programs. The Housing Element calls for the development of 7,600 affordable housing units between 2013 and 2021. Also, the City's density bonus ordinance needs to be updated.

4. Role of the City and Commission

The Commission needs to remain focus on its mission, to recommend to City Council policies and programs that will *prevent and reduce the incidence of homelessness* in our City, and for this mission to remain a priority of the City. This is a good public policy. It promotes the common good, looks out for those in need of housing. Nothing could be more noble or moral. And, the Commission needs to avoid being distracted by matters that neither prevent nor reduce

the incidence of homelessness.

The Commission can help make homelessness a priority of the City by helping the City exercise certain initiatives.

- a. The Commission can recommend to City Council that it work with the Community Action Agency in developing a year round shelter. So far, the Community Action Agency is the only agency that has done any work towards development of a year round shelter, and the only effort that the City can use as an example of some progress in meeting the year round shelter goal. The Community Action Agency has indicated that it can develop a year round shelter for 50 clients. There is some question as to whether the site would meet government environmental requirements. If the current site becomes infeasible, the City and the Community Action Agency can work on an alternate site.
- b. The Commission can recommend to City Council that it issue a request for proposals for development a year round shelter. Potential developers and operators would respond, and both the Commission and the City would need to decide on an award of the project.
- c. The Commission can review the draft housing element and be ready to recommended suggested changes when the housing element goes to City Council. A date for City Council consideration has not been set.
- d. The Commission can also monitor the City's Housing Authority for compliance with recent HUD guidance that promotes housing for the homeless, by establishing compliance timelines and reviewing compliance methods, e.g. that housing authorities give preference for housing the homeless in their public housing and Section 8 programs (HUD Notice PIH 2013-15); eviction prevention strategies, and elimination of arrest records to deny housing (HUD Notice PIH 2015-19).

HUD has now given more importance to this guidance by now awarding up to 3 points to local continuum of care agencies that are requesting homeless assistance funds, when they can demonstrate that their local housing authorities are giving preference to housing the homeless or have admitted new tenants who were homeless, with copies from their policies that address homeless preferences, preferences that Oxnard's Housing Authority has yet to adopt.

- e. The Commission also needs to be an authentic advocate for the homeless and prevent any local efforts to criminalize the homeless.

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty defines criminalization as carrying out sweeps (confiscating personal property including tents, bedding, papers, clothing, medications, etc.) in city areas where homeless people live, making panhandling illegal, making it illegal for groups to share food with homeless persons in public spaces, enforcing a "quality of life" ordinance relating to public activity and hygiene.

And, HUD has agreed. On September 18, 2015, when HUD announced that it was inviting requests for funds for the homeless, it also said that it would award up to 2 points to recipients that "have implemented specific strategies that prevent criminalization of homelessness."

f. The Commission can also play a key role in supporting the development of needed affordable housing projects by supporting local projects that meet the goals and objectives of the City's Housing Element. The Commission does not need to develop projects. That is beyond the scope of the Commission. But, it can actively participate in the promotion and development of projects that contribute to the achievement of the affordable housing goals in the Housing Element. Such a role will certainly bear fruit for the long term.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Gonzalez
Commissioner



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
12/01/2015

Media Contact: Ron Irwin, Director of Community Services
(805) 436-4015 or (805) 890-5496, Cell

TRANSITION CENTER TO OPEN FULL DAY
Offering Services to Homeless and Community

(OXNARD, CA)—With the Ventura County Winter Warming Shelter opening this week in Oxnard, Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC) will be extending the hours of the daily transition center to provide additional access to services during day time hours, when the shelter is closed. The new hours will begin Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015 and the center will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Oxnard is expecting to see a rise in homeless individuals, as many will come from around the county seeking warm night time shelter during this forecasted harsh winter. CAVC is hoping that during the day our case managers and center staff may be able to provide access to services that may lead individuals out of homelessness.

"Services in our transition center range from basic needs, such as showers, bathrooms, and basic hygiene, to being an entry point back in to society by helping the homeless secure identification, social security documents, and basic healthcare," said Ron Irwin, Director of Community Services. "During these extended hours we are also looking to work with our community partners to offer, expanded services."

Irwin said CAVC is grateful for the community and business support CAVC has been receiving as we work together to address the issue of chronic homelessness.

###

Ron Irwin

Ron Irwin
Director of Community Services
Community Action of Ventura County
621 Richmond Avenue
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 436-4015 Direct Office
(805) 890-5496 Cell
rirwin@ca-vc.org
www.ca-vc.org

STATUS OF O.H.A. HOMELESS AND V.A.S.H. VOUCHERS AS OF 12/7/15

*Hello Karl, Please let me know if you have any questions (my responses are in bold).
Thank you! Patricia, 12/7/15*

**From: Karl Lawson
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 8:51 AM
To: Patricia Magallanes
Cc: Arturo Casillas
Subject: Homeless Vouchers**

Patricia: On Monday, December 7, the Commission on Homelessness will be conducting a special meeting, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct a study session to develop recommendations on long-term strategies to address homelessness. I will be putting together a report for that meeting detailing the various programs that exist. It would be very helpful if I could have, by December 1, the following information so I can incorporate it into my report:

1. Number of vouchers issued under the 15-voucher set-aside for homeless households; total number of individuals in the households that have received these vouchers; and number of these households that have found a unit

Response: The OHA has not yet approved any homeless set-aside vouchers. We received the final approval from the City Attorney's office for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreement will be entered between all three parties, OHA, service providers, and the clients.

2. Number of vouchers issued to homeless households that are not part of that 15-voucher set-aside; total number of individuals in the households that have received these vouchers; and number of those households that have found a unit

Rspnse: There have been nine "self-proclaimed" homeless families that have been housed and receiving Section 8 assistance, that are not been part of the set aside vouchers. There have been eleven families that were withdrawn for no response to the "Letter of Interest". There have been six families "selected" from the waiting list and are in the process of being assisted. One family was denied for non-compliance (failed to return documents required to process with eligibility), one family was over-income, and one family denied because they failed the background.

3. Number of VASH vouchers issued (homeless and non-homeless); number of individuals in these households that have received these vouchers; and number of these households that have found a unit.

Response: There are currently 27 VASH vouchers leased-up. There are four families that have received their voucher and currently searching for a unit.

4. For the 15 set-asides, number of homeless households whose applications are in process and who are close to receiving a voucher, but have not yet received one

Response: There are not any set aside vouchers that are close to receiving their voucher at this time.

5. Any other information -- positive or negative -- that you can provide regarding the 15 homeless set-aside and the VASH vouchers.

Response: We will be scheduling a meeting with all the service providers next week to begin the process necessary to utilize the homeless set-aside vouchers. We are currently working with our HUD Representative to find better ways to receive referrals from the Veteran's Administration to lease up all unused VASH vouchers.

Thank you very much.

Karl
11/23/15



10 STRATEGIES TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

The goal to end Veteran homelessness is in reach and will require accelerated efforts from all partners to get the job done. To support communities as they progress towards the goal, USICH has identified 10 strategies that increase leadership, collaboration, and coordination among programs serving Veterans experiencing homelessness, and promote rapid access to permanent housing for all Veterans. Each strategy is accompanied by additional resources to help community leaders and stakeholders understand how to implement these strategies more effectively.

1) START AT THE TOP: RECRUIT YOUR MAYOR TO JOIN THE MAYORS CHALLENGE TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Mayors and local leaders are essential to securing and aligning the resources and partners necessary to end Veteran homelessness in every community. If your Mayor, County Commissioner, or Governor has not yet joined the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, they should do so. Joining the Mayors Challenge is a great way to solidify partnerships and to promote coordination and ensure accountability across all partners. The Mayors Challenge also includes criteria for success in ending Veteran homelessness that can help define the vision and the goal for your community.

Resources:

- [Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness Fact Sheet](#)
- [Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness Information \(HUD\)](#)

2) IDENTIFY ALL VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY NAME

By identifying Veterans by name, a community is able to ensure that they are effectively and efficiently serving all Veterans needing housing and homelessness assistance. A best practice has been to create a shared list of Veterans experiencing homelessness, created through data-sharing, assessment processes, and communication between the local VA Medical Center, the Continuum of Care, and other stakeholders. A VA Medical Center is able to share client-level information with CoC partners by asking the Veteran to sign a release of information (ROI) form that meets VA requirements. The community can then prioritize the list to match Veterans with the appropriate housing and services as quickly as possible.

Resource:

- [Best Practices: Sharing Information to End Veteran Homelessness \(HUD; includes link to VA ROI form\)](#)

3) IMPLEMENT A HOUSING FIRST SYSTEM ORIENTATION AND RESPONSE

By using a Housing First approach, a community can ensure that Veterans experiencing homelessness can move into permanent housing, with the right level of services, as quickly as possible. Individual programs and projects can help accelerate entry to permanent housing by removing as many barriers as possible for accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, poor credit or financial history, or past involvement with criminal justice system.

In addition, to truly embrace Housing First, a community should create strong and direct referral linkages and relationships between the crisis response system and rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing, implement a coordinated entry system for matching people experiencing homelessness to the most appropriate housing and services, and use a data-driven approach to prioritizing people with the most significant needs for housing assistance.

Resources:

- [The Housing First Checklist: A Practical Tool for Assessing Housing First in Practice](#)
- [Four Clarifications about Housing First](#) blog by Richard Cho

4) SET AND MEET AMBITIOUS SHORT-TERM HOUSING PLACEMENT GOALS

By setting concrete and ambitious short-term housing placement goals, your community can achieve bold outcomes around targeting Veterans experiencing homelessness and expediting entry to permanent housing. Many communities have established ambitious monthly, quarterly, or 100-day housing placement goals to break down the larger goal of ending Veteran homelessness into focused blocks of time and effort, while pushing their systems to perform with maximum efficiency and better outcomes.

H

Every community should also use the VA gaps analysis tool to determine the inventory of resources needed locally to end Veteran homelessness, including the amount and types of transitional housing. If your community finds that it has a larger stock of transitional housing units than are needed to house Veterans, it may wish to convert those programs into other programs such as permanent supportive housing or modify the program model to serve another function such as bridge housing. Options vary by funding source and regulations.

Resource:

- [Guide to Reallocating Funds In the CoC Program \(HUD\)](#)

9) INCREASING CONNECTIONS TO EMPLOYMENT

As President Obama said in the 2015 State of the Union address, "If you want somebody who's going to get the job done, hire a Veteran." Communities should work with employers to commit to hiring Veterans, including Veterans who have experienced homelessness.

Communities should also collaborate with Workforce Investment Boards and provide seamless points of referrals and contacts between the Continuum of Care, VA Medical Center, and workforce systems. CoC and VA case managers are integral resources in building referral relationships with supportive service providers, public system and can help navigate employment services and ensure that a Veterans' employment needs are met holistically. Some communities have utilized the Employment Navigator model, where a case management team helps families experiencing homelessness through homeless assistance and housing, workforce systems, and income supports.

Resources:

- [Partnerships for Opening Doors Summit Page](#)
- [Practice Guides for Employment and Training](#)
- [Top Ideas on Integrating Employment and Housing Strategies to Prevent and End Homelessness](#)
- [Guides for Service Providers \(National Coalition for Homeless Veterans\)](#)

10) COORDINATE WITH LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS TO SOLVE LEGAL NEEDS

One of the major reasons Veterans experience homelessness is due to unmet legal needs. Civil legal services attorneys are essential partners in removing barriers to housing and employment by solving civil legal problems such as preventing avoidable evictions, navigating outstanding warrants, expunging criminal records, and securing targeted and mainstream benefits. Legal Services attorneys should also engage in systemic advocacy (to the degree allowable by law) to promote Housing First practices among public housing authorities and housing assistance programs. Your community should ensure that homeless assistance programs coordinate with legal services organization to address individual and systemic legal needs.

Resources:

- [Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable Toolkit \(DOJ\)](#)
- [Five Best Practices for SSVF legal services \(VA\)](#)
- [Homeless Experience Legal Protection \(Project H. E. L. P.\)](#)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND STRATEGIES TO END VETERANS HOMELESSNESS, VISIT USICH.GOV/POPULATION/VETERANS.

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

December 7, 2015

Dear Public Housing Authority leaders:

First Lady Michelle Obama recently released a video message to landlords across the country, calling them to action. Specifically, she urged them to join our effort to end veteran homelessness by making units available to veterans seeking housing with rental assistance vouchers. I invite you to view the message at <https://vimeo.com/144505787>.

I know you understand, particularly in tight rental markets, that it can be very challenging to find safe, affordable housing options for the folks who need our assistance the most. That includes the men and women who have served this country.

In 2010, President Obama released *Opening Doors*, the federal government's first strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness nationwide. Since the launch of *Opening Doors*, there has been a 35 percent decrease in homelessness among veterans, and the number of unsheltered homeless veterans has dropped by 50%. I know this impressive progress is due, in large part, to the partnerships formed at the local level and your commitment to the goal of ending veteran homelessness through the increased use of HUD-VASH vouchers.

PHAs have been awarded nearly 80,000 HUD-VASH vouchers since 2008, and as a result, housed over 101,000 veterans. Today, more than 64,000 veterans and their families are in safe, stable housing because of the HUD-VASH program.

But our work is not complete. We currently have an additional 6,000 veterans with HUD-VASH

vouchers that are searching for a home. I encourage you to *share the First Lady's message as you engage with landlords to assist these families, and as we continue to work together to end veteran homelessness.*

If you have questions about HUD-VASH or want to know more about best practices in landlord engagement, please contact your local HUD Field Office of Public Housing, or send an email to VASH@HUD.gov.

We thank you for all of your hard work and commitment on this mission to end homelessness for the brave men and women that have so honorably served this country.

Sincerely,



Lourdes Castro Ramirez
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and Indian Housing

Housing Element Facts:

- City of Oxnard Housing element potential affordable residential sites - 125.69 buildable acres

- Housing density 24-30 per acre

Number of units under the program = 2,243

- Cost of residential land \$ 32.00 per sq. ft.

- Approximate area per household $43,544 \text{ sq. ft.} / 24 = 1,814.3 \text{ sq. ft.}$

$1,814.3 \text{ sq. ft.} \times \$32.00 = \$58,058.60$

- Cost of used shipping container 8'x40'x9' high = \$1,500.00

- Conversion cost for single bed with T&B and Kitchen = \$90-\$120 per sq. ft.

$90 \times 320 \text{ sq. ft.} = \$28,800.00$

- Approximate cost per unit = $\$28,800.00 + \$1,500.00 + \$58,058.60 = \$88,358.60$

- Total cost $2,243 \text{ Units} \times \$88,358.60 = \$198,188,339.80$

$\$198,188,339.80 + 12.8\% \text{ (fees)} = \$223,556,447.30$

- Number of units per year to cover 10 year program = 225 units

- Yearly budget = \$22,355,644.73

- 2015-2015 Units Built in Oxnard = 270 units

1) Colonia House = 44

2) Vista Urbana = 110

3) Terraza De Las Cortes = 63

4) River Park Sonata Apts. = 53

Suggestions from Sue Brinkmeyer for language to be included in potential resolution:

Whereas:

1. Homelessness is a high-risk condition that has severe impacts on each homeless person and on the larger community;
2. Solving homelessness requires an adequate supply of housing that very low income people can afford;
3. Services must be matched to each homeless person's individualized needs;
4. Ending homelessness will require;
5. Solutions to homelessness often require political will and governmental action as well as the support of all non-governmental sectors of our community, including service providers, the faith-based community, businesses, community residents and homeless persons themselves;
6. Primary, evidence-based strategies to end homeless include a "housing first" approach, primarily for chronically homeless persons and families, and a "rapid rehousing" approach primarily for non-chronically homeless persons and families;
7. The 2015 Point-In-Time count of homeless persons in the City of Oxnard located 603 persons experiencing homelessness on that day in January including the following subcategories:
 - 27 unsheltered veterans
 - 16 unsheltered families with a total of 37 children (7 of these unsheltered families were chronically homeless)
 - 154 chronically homeless individuals
 - 141 individuals with a chronic illness
 - 110 individuals with a physical disability
 - 36 with a developmental disability
 - 67 with a mental health problem
 - 75 with a problem with drugs or alcohol
 - 49 individuals who had been a victim of domestic or intimate partner violence

- Increase financial resources for rental and utility assistance to households that are most likely to become homeless if not for this assistance.

E. Recommendation #18: Business Community Involvement:

- Increase the number of business organizations and individual business leaders that actively become involved in the implementation of the recommendations of the 10-Year Plan.
- Identify employment opportunities for homeless and formerly homeless persons who have successfully obtained housing;
- Provide on-the-job-training (OJT) and entry level job opportunities;
- Create partnerships between homeless prevention service providers and business community to ensure that the community's workforce is aware of homelessness prevention resources and services; and
- Support local homeless service providers and the homeless persons that they serve through the donation of funds or the provision of in-kind services.

Now, therefore, the Oxnard Commission on Homelessness recommends to the City Council that it take the following actions:

1. Prioritize HUD and other funds, including ESG, HOME, and CDBG, for ending homelessness.
2. Support (prioritize, expedite, and incentivize) the creation of crisis housing (small, localized shelters) with wrap around services.
3. Support (prioritize, expedite, and incentivize) the development of housing for households that are very low and extremely low income, *and expand AAHOP zones to facilitate RHNA goals*
4. Support (prioritize, expedite, and incentivize) the creation of permanent supportive housing consistent with the number chronically homeless community members *achieving*
5. Explore creative housing options such as shipping container housing, motel conversion, other repurposed housing, and granny flats, *SROs*.
6. Engage and incentivize landlords to rent to individuals with housing vouchers and to utilize alternate screening criteria when renting to households that have been homeless.
7. Increase financial resources for rental and utility assistance to households that are most likely to become homeless if not for this assistance;
8. Work to increase the involvement of both the private and public sectors in providing employment opportunities for individuals working their way out of homelessness;
9. Work with legislative representatives at the state and federal level to increase funding for targeted populations such as homeless veterans, seniors, and those with physical and mental disabilities.
10. Fill staff position of homeless coordinator, at least part time.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS OF THE CITY OF
OXNARD REGARDING YEAR-ROUND SHELTERS**

WHEREAS, the City Council has established the Commission on Homelessness and charged the Commission with advising the City Council on all matters pertaining to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the Commission, as set forth in the City Code, include recommending programs, strategies and funding for preventing and reducing the incidence of homelessness in the City; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2015, the City Council approved an appropriation of \$40,000 from Housing Department reserves to help defray the costs of the 2015-16 Winter Warming Shelter, which is being funded as a partnership between the County of Ventura, the cities of Oxnard and San Buenaventura, and several community organizations; and with the stated intent of the City to move away from funding large-scale winter shelters, and towards the establishment of smaller year-round shelters with wrap-around services for homeless persons; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Homelessness fully endorses the concept of promoting and facilitating such year-round shelters with services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Homelessness recommends the following to the City Council:

- (1) That for the 2016-17 grant funding cycle, the provision of services and shelter for homeless persons should be a designated by the City as the top priority in the evaluation and awarding of funds under the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Partnerships Act, and Emergency Solutions Grant programs;
- (2) That as part of the 2016-17 funding cycle grant process, staff be directed to solicit proposals for year-round shelters that include services for homeless persons; and
- (3) That the City initiate a comprehensive effort to seek additional non-grant funding from our state and federal legislative representatives to provide resources for the development of year-round shelters with services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be presented by the Commission to the City Council's Homeless Committee for consideration and subsequent presentation to the City Council.

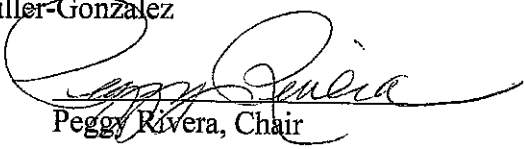
PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th day of December, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Rivera, Brinkmeyer, Castanon, Jaena

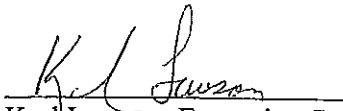
NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Flores, Martinez, Miller-Gonzalez

ABSTENTIONS: None


Peggy Rivera, Chair

ATTEST:


Karl Lawson, Executive Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS OF THE CITY OF OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, REGARDING LONG-TERM CITY STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, the City Council has established the Commission on Homelessness and charged the Commission with advising the City Council on all matters pertaining to homelessness in the City; and

WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the Commission, as set forth in the City Code, include recommending programs, strategies and funding for preventing and reducing the incidence of homelessness in the City; and

WHEREAS, at several public meetings this year, notably on May 20, 2015, and again on December 7, 2015, the Commission discussed long-range strategies to address homelessness, and received public comment on long-range strategies; and

WHEREAS, in its public meetings throughout 2015, the Commission has received considerable input from service providers, staff, community members, homeless persons and advocates, and has engaged in discussion and analysis by the Commission;

WHEREAS, the Commission concludes that among the steps that can be taken immediately to enable the City to address homelessness on a long-term basis are such elements as examining ways to increase the supply of affordable housing; implementing judicious targeting of housing assistance resources to help homeless persons; ensuring maximum coordination between the City and the County-wide Continuum of Care; and allocation of sufficient City resources devoted to the homeless services program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Homelessness recommends the following to the City Council:

- (1) That staff of the appropriate departments be directed to analyze the current in-lieu fee structure to determine the optimum fee level necessary to incentivize affordable housing production;
- (2) That the Oxnard Housing Authority be directed to study and develop an approach to implement a preference for homeless and disabled persons to receive assistance under the Public Housing and the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher programs;
- (3) That staff be directed to ensure maximum compliance and coordination with the County-wide Continuum of Care on matters related to coordinated entry and Homeless Management Information Systems, with respect to all city-provided services and as part of City audits of all service providers receiving funding under the Emergency Solutions Grant program and Community Development Block Grant programs; and
- (4) That the position of Homeless Services Program Coordinator be filled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOVED that this Resolution shall presented by the Commission to the City Council's Homeless Committee for consideration and subsequent presentation to the City Council.

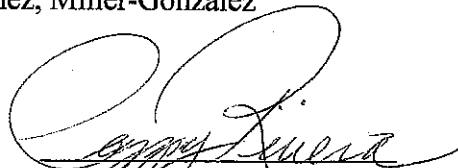
PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th day of December, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Rivera, Brinkmeyer, Castanon, Jaena, Martinez

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Flores, Martinez, Miller-Gonzalez

ABSTENTIONS: None



Peggy Rivera, Chair

ATTEST:



Karl Lawson, Executive Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS OF THE CITY OF OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF PRINCIPLES TO PROMOTE AND INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS, the City Council has established the Commission on Homelessness and charged the Commission with advising the City Council on all matters pertaining to homelessness in the City; and

WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the Commission, as set forth in the City Code, include recommending programs, strategies and funding for preventing and reducing the incidence of homelessness in the City; and

WHEREAS, at several public meetings this year, notably on May 20, 2015, and again on December 7, 2015, the Commission discussed long-range strategies to address homelessness, and received public comment on ways the City can increase the supply of housing affordable to extremely-low and very-low income households, including the homeless; and

WHEREAS, in its public meetings throughout 2015, the Commission has received considerable input from service providers, staff, community members, homeless persons and advocates, and has engaged in discussion and analysis by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concludes that the City can promote an increase in the supply of housing affordable to very-low and extremely-low income families by adopting several principles applicable to community development strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Homelessness recommends that City Council endorse the the principles set forth below and direct staff to implement systems and process that will permit, prioritize, expedite, and incentivize the following:

- (1) Development of housing for households that are very-low and extremely-low income, including the expansion of existing and establishment of new AAHOP zones;
- (2) Development of permanent supportive housing units consistent with the number of chronically homeless community members;
- (3) Construction and occupancy of non-traditional housing structures, such as shipping container housing, motel conversion, other re-purposed housing, second units/granny flats, and Single-Room Occupancy units;
- (4) Increased acceptance by landlords of housing vouchers, including utilization of alternate screening criteria when accepting vouchers issued to households that have been homeless; and
- (5) Increased provision of financial resources for rental assistance and utility assistance to households that are most likely to become homeless if not for this assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOVED that this Resolution shall presented by the Commission to the City Council's Homeless Committee for consideration and subsequent presentation to the City Council.

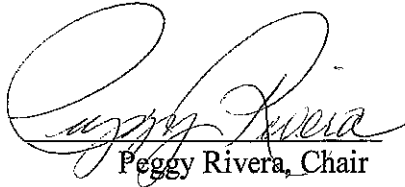
PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th day of December, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Rivera, Brinkmeyer, Castanon, Jaena

NOES: None

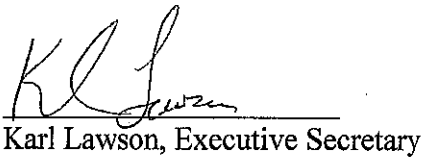
ABSENT: Commissioners Flores, Martinez, Miller-Gonzalez

ABSTENTIONS: None



Peggy Rivera, Chair

ATTEST:



Karl Lawson, Executive Secretary



TO: Honorable Chair and Commissioners
Commission on Homelessness

FROM: Karl Lawson, Housing 

DATE: January 6, 2016

SUBJECT: 2016-17 Entitlement Grant Funding

I. RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission designate one Commissioner and one alternate to serve on the proposal review panel.

II. DISCUSSION

In early 2015, the Commission on Homelessness participated in the evaluation and review of applications that had been submitted to the City from organizations seeking funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) entitlement grant funding that the City receives from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The funding cycle for Fiscal Year 2016-17 grant applications commences this month. On January 12, 2016, the Oxnard City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Unmet Needs Assessment. Attachment No. 1 to this report is a memo from Housing Director Arturo Casillas outlining the entitlement grants funding cycle calendar, which commences with pre-application workshops on January 19. From March 1 through March 3, 2016, funding applications and project proposals will be reviewed by a panel that will make recommendations to be forwarded to City Council.

One year ago, the review panel was composed of representatives from various Citizen Advisory Groups, including the Commission. Staff anticipates that the panel for FY 2016-17 may once again solicit input from the Commission.

At its meeting of December 7, 2015, the Commission conducted a study session which culminated in the adoption of three resolutions setting forth recommendations on various

aspects of homelessness. Those resolutions are found as Attachments No. 10, 11 and 12 to the minutes of that meeting. Resolution No. 2015-02 specifically includes recommended priorities for CDBG, HOME and ESG grant allocations, and additionally recommends that the 2016-17 grant funding process solicit proposals for year-round shelters that include services for homeless persons.

II. RECOMMENDED COMMISSION ACTION

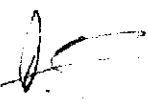
Given the likelihood that the proposal review panel will again solicit participation from CAGs, staff recommends that COH designate, by majority vote, a representative and an alternate to serve on such a panel. The designations may be made by a nomination, a second, an acceptance by the nominee, followed by a vote of the full Commission.

Attachment No. 1: Housing Director Memo of December 14, 2015

KL/kl

MEMO



DATE: December 14, 2015
TO: Potential Applicants
FROM: Arturo Casillas, Housing Director 
SUBJECT: Entitlement Grants Pre-Application Sessions

We are pleased to announce the 2016 schedule of the application process for the use of entitlement funds. This process has been established based on City Council's recommendation and direction. The pre-application sessions related to the entitlement grants, which are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), will be held on two alternative days:

January 19, 2016
9 AM to 5 PM
Oxnard Public Library
251 South A Street in Room B

January 21, 2016
9 AM to 5 PM
Oxnard Public Library
251 South A Street in Room B

The different sessions are scheduled as follows:

From 9 AM to 11:30 PM: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program guidelines and application Instructions.
From 1:30 PM to 3 PM: HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program guidelines and application Instructions.
From 3:30 PM to 5 PM: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program guidelines and application Instructions..

Agenda, registration form, applications, instructions and program summaries will be available online at the City of Oxnard Housing Department website (www.oxnardhousing.us). The enclosed registration form for the three sessions is due by January 14, 2016. Additional important dates are as follows:

January 12, 2016	First Public Hearing related to Unmet Needs Assessment
February 19, 2016	Application Deadline
March 1 to March 3, 2016	Panel Review Interview
April 26, 2016	Second public hearing related to priorities and needs determination and funding recommendation of CDBG, HOME and ESG projects at City Council Chambers

If you need additional information you may contact Norma Owens at (805) 385-7959 or via email norma.owens@ci.oxnard.ca.us. Thank you for your collaboration and assistance.

Enclosure

Attachment No. 1



**REGISTRATION
Pre-Application Meeting
Oxnard Public Library, Room B
251 South 'A' Street**

Name: _____ Title: _____

E-mail address: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Organization: _____ Address: _____

Department: _____ Division: _____

Please check the date and session(s) you would like to attend:

January 19, 2016 ☐ **January 21, 2016** ☐

Session 1: CDBG Overview of regulations and Application Process ☐
From 9 AM to 11:30 PM:

Session 2: HOME Overview of regulations and Application Process ☐
From 1:30 PM to 3 PM:

Session 3: ESG Overview of regulations and Application Process ☐
From 3:30 PM to 5 PM:

This form can be e-mailed to diedre.kobuke@ci.oxnard.ca.us or addressed to:

**City of Oxnard - Housing Department
Attention: Diedre Kobuke
435 South D Street
Oxnard, CA 93030**

NOTE: This session is **mandatory** for potential applicants who intend to submit an application to receive CDBG, HOME, and/or ESG grant funding for FY 2016-2017 projects. Please submit your registration by 5:00 p.m. on **January 14, 2016** if you plan to attend.

Attachment No. 1



**TO: Honorable Chair and Commissioners
Commission on Homelessness**

FROM: Karl Lawson, Housing 

DATE: January 6, 2016

**SUBJECT: Panhandling, Veterans' Homelessness, and Ten Year Plan to
End Homelessness**

I. RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission (1) formulate recommendations for policies and actions regarding panhandling, homelessness among veterans, and the County of Ventura Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness; and (2) authorize and direct the Chair to forward the Commission's recommendations to the Homeless Committee and City Council.

II. DISCUSSION

At its meeting of December 7, 2015, the Commission conducted a study session which culminated in the adoption of three resolutions setting forth recommendations on various aspects of homelessness. During the course of the Study Session, the Commission identified several other matters which were not specifically addressed in those resolutions, and elected to table consideration of those unaddressed matters to the January meeting.

The three matters presented to the Commission at the January 11, 2016 meeting are the following:

- (a) City Code provisions pertaining to panhandling
- (b) Homelessness among veterans
- (c) The County of Ventura's Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness

Staff will provide a brief report on each of these items at the January 11th meeting. Following the presentation, staff recommends that the Commission discuss and receive public comment on these matters, and formulate recommendations related thereto, to be

adopted in the form of a written resolution for subsequent presentation to the Homeless Committee and to City Council.

Note: The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness is a lengthy document in book form, and is not reproduced here, as it has been provided to Commissioners at previous meetings. It is, however, available at the County of Ventura's Homeless Services website. Paper copies will be provided at the January 11, 2016 meeting, and are available from staff prior to the meeting upon request (call 385-8095).

KL/kl

2015-2016 Winter Warming Shelter Training

Saturday, January 9th

0830am-1230pm

Mission Church

2875 Elba Street

Ventura, CA 93003

RSVP atti@roadrunner.com

