

**City of Oxnard
Commission on Homelessness**

**Summary of Discussion of Commissioners
(In lieu of official COH meeting of February 2, 2015)**

On Monday, February 2, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. the following five members of the COH convened in an unsuccessful attempt to conduct the COH's Noticed Meeting, in the Council Chambers at 305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA 93030. Chairwoman Peggy Rivera, Vice-Chair France Castañon, Commissioner Darlene Miller, and Commissioner David Courtland were present at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Felipe Flores arrived at 4:07 p.m.

City staff present were Karl Lawson, Interim Homeless Services Coordinator, Peter Brown, from the City Manager's Office; Ruth Johnson, Oxnard Housing Department; Carrie Sabatini, Interim Housing Director and Grace Hoffman, Deputy City Manager.

The five Commissioners present did not meet the current City Code quorum requirement of six Commissioners. Being unable to hold an official meeting, Chair Rivera led a discussion on various items as they appeared and were number on the posted agenda for the 2/2/15 meeting: The following are highlights from the items discussed.

Public Comment: Mr. Tim Hockett from Community Action of Ventura County presented some written recommendations to the Commission regarding the Ventura County Continuum of Care. A copy of that document is attached hereto.

Item 4(A): Report of Ad Hoc Committee on COH Participation in the 2015-16 Needs Assessment and Section 8 Plan. Chair Rivera led a discussion the work of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Staff referred to the agenda report dated December 30, 2014 (which was included in the agenda packet for the meeting of February 2, 2015). Mr. Lawson reiterated that the COH Chair had submitted the Subcommittee's written recommendations to City Council at the Public Hearing of January 13, 2015 (a copy of that letter is attached hereto).

The newly-appointed COH will be able to take up the matter of COH recommendations at the meeting in the first week of March. The COH Public Hearing before the Housing Commission, scheduled for March 17, 2015, will constitute the COH's opportunity to present its recommendations on the Section 8 voucher issue. With respect to CDBG and ESG, the second public hearing before City Council on recommended funding allocations based on the Needs Assessment is scheduled for April 7, 2015.

Item 4(B): Proposal Review Panel for 2015-2016 Grant Applications. Mr. Lawson directed the Commissioners' attention to the staff report at pages 008-010 of the agenda packet. Funding proposals from non-profits, governmental bodies, and other applicants are due on February 23, 2015. This year the City has formalized the process for input by Citizen Advisory Groups into the funding allocation recommendation process, and the COH is one of four CAGs which are being offered the opportunity to elect a representative to serve on a seven-member Proposal Review Panel. Because of the lack of quorum at the February 2nd meeting, the COH will not be able to designate its representative to the Proposal Review Panel until a meeting is conducted at which a legal quorum is present. The Proposal Review Panel's work is scheduled for the week of March 2nd -6th. Staff reminded the COH that the designated representative should not be anyone who has any current or recent affiliation with any of the groups which is applying for funding.

Item 5(A): Point in Time Count report. Mr. Peter Brown reported that the Count of January 27, 2015 went very well, and that results should be available by mid-April. Various Commissioners and staff

commented on the excellent organization and work of Mr. Brown and volunteers in putting together an efficient organization.

Item 5(B): Section 8 Vouchers: Chair Rivera led a discussion on substance of the Subcommittee's recommendation regarding a set-aside of vouchers for homeless individuals. She stated that she disagreed with the number of vouchers proposed by Oxnard Housing Authority staff (5), and recommended that twenty vouchers be reserved for homeless individuals; and also recommended that the vouchers not be given out by the Housing Authority, but instead should be given out by the homeless service organizations. Chair Rivera also questioned the criteria limiting the use of the vouchers to individuals who are leaving a transitional living facility.

Interim Housing Director Carrie Sabatini explained the OHA staff proposal (on page 011 of the agenda packet) and the reasoning that led to that proposal.

Several Commissioners also addressed the subject of the vouchers. Ms. Karol Schulkin described a City of Ventura Housing Authority proposal to give preference to homeless families to reside in public housing units. Mr. Ron Mulvihill recommended that the City consider implementing strategies that have already been implemented successfully in other jurisdictions rather than creating something new.

Mr. Salvador Gonzalez also spoke on the issue, and stated that setting aside vouchers was one of many ways that the OHA could dedicate resources to address the issue of homelessness. He expressed his belief that the OHA was not in compliance with HUD Notice PIH 2013-15 (HA), which provides strategies that PHAs may use to expand housing opportunities to homeless persons. A copy of that Notice is attached hereto.

Item 5(C): Report from Oxnard Police Department. Mr. Brown reported on recent activities regarding a pending clean-up of a homeless encampment at the NRG site near the Oxnard Shores coastal area, and provided details on the plan to remove the encampment within the next few months. He complimented the police officers on their work and dedication, and responded to several questions from members of the Commission regarding the homeless individuals who reside in the camp, the nature of the encampment, and the security and sanitation issues involved.

Item 6(A): The Courts. Ms. Sabatini reported that three families remain to be relocated out of the existing housing that is to be demolished and replaced.

Item 6(B): Winter Warming Shelter. Mr. Ron Mulvihill, reporting on behalf of Amanda Herrera, reported that the WWS had provided 6623 shelter nights since December 1, 2014, to a total of 457 unduplicated individuals, including 86 new persons in January. Among those 86 new persons in January were 13 families with a total of 38 children. He thanked the County for using their set-aside to provide hotel vouchers for families with children.

Item 7(C): Continuum of Care: Next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2015

Item 7(D): Upcoming events. Vice-Chair Castanon announced that the Ventura County Behavioral Health was having a welcome event for that agency's new Director, Ms. Elaine Crandall, this Friday, February 6, at 6:00 p.m. at Tomas Café on South A Street in Oxnard. Mr. Lawson advised that a Public Meeting on the City's Housing Element Update and the Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing will take place on Monday, March 2, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

(Session ended at 5:20 p.m.; notes by Karl Lawson)