CITY OF OXNARD COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2019

On Monday, October 7, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. the Meeting of the Commission on Homelessness convened in the Oxnard City Council Chambers, 305 West Third Street, Oxnard, CA 93030. Peggy Rivera, Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER
   Roll was called, the following Commissioners were in attendance: Ruby Durias, Yukio Okano, Peggy Rivera, Jose Negrete and David Littell. A quorum was deemed present. Mayra Plascencia and Rene Camper Stewart were late to the meeting.

   City of Oxnard staff members present were Mark Alvarado, Homeless Assistance Program Coordinator; Emilio Ramirez, Housing Director; Duane Koziel, City Clerk's Office Assistant and Angelica Navarro, Administrative Secretary III.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS
   a. Oath of Office - Duane Koziel, City Clerk administered the oath of office to the incoming member of the Commission, David Littell. Commissioner Littell gave a brief introduction of himself followed by each commissioner introducing themselves to him.
   b. Minutes of Special Meeting of August 5, 2019- Yukio Okano made a motion to accept the minutes, second by Peggy Rivera. The motion was accepted by all except David Littell who abstained.
   c. Election of Chair- Ruby Durias nominated Jose Negrete as the Chair. He declined.
      Yukio Okano nominated Peggy Rivera as the Chair. Peggy Rivera accepted the nomination. Mayra Plascencia seconds the nomination and a vote was taken as follows:

      Ayes: Yukio Okano, Mayra Plascencia, Peggy Rivera, Jose Negrete, and David Littell.

      Nay: Ruby Durias

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
   a. Cindy Morales- 35-year Oxnard resident. Belongs to All Saints church. They provide services to homeless people. She stated the number one need is housing. She's heard the City has declared an emergency crisis and wanted clarification. She would also like to see consolidated efforts in the future.

      Emilio clarified for Ms. Morales that the City declared a "Shelter Crisis", which was needed to apply for shelter funding. A state of emergency would probably be triggered by a natural disaster. Emilio to do more research on the pros and cons and will report back.

   b. Darlene Miller- Said Santa Paula opens their shelter in December. Ventura will open their shelter soon too. She would like information on evictions in the City because she sees many people who are homeless with suitcases which is an indication of a recent eviction.

      Emilio will research market rate vacancies and evictions from the Housing Authority and will report back to the Commission on Homelessness.

   c. Roberto García- Owns García Mortuary. Says we must educate ourselves, get to know people in need and then offer services. Teach them how to be self-sufficient. He's thinks we should explore container modular houses. Something has to be done because downtown is looking very neglected.

   d. Lucy Cartagena- wanted to let the Commission know that they need to be active and that she hasn't seen any sub-committees or anything coming from the Commission. She says that ordinances without homeless

commission input were passed and they are about to have a negative impact on the most vulnerable population. Says the citations are $140.00 and the homeless cannot afford this.

Emilio stated that even though the ordinances were approved they weren't active yet.

4. REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF AND GUESTS
    a. Plans for an emergency foul weather shelter- The temporary nature of the overnight shelter thru December 31, 2019. City is actively looking for a site for the Oxnard Navigation center (110 beds). Currently, negotiating with Mercy Housing to extend their contract to avoid a gap in services. Staff has met with realtors, brokers, created a map, a formula and amenities. A site was identified and an offer has been made. The site is 17,500 square feet and the address is 1258 Saviers Rd. It was a store before, there is plenty of parking behind it. A design consultant should be on board before the end of the year. The shelter will be for men and women. May not be able to accommodate families. The director is confident in the lease offer made for the venue.

    There are no second site efforts, there will not be an additional shelter for foul weather. There is no funding/site for it. There are other shelter in surrounding areas. Mark Alvarado, Homeless Services Coordinator reported that in past foul weather shelters attendance would be between 60-80 persons.

        i. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
            1. Darlene Miller- wanted to know in the case that the need arises from the homeless population during foul weather, will the City call a "State of Emergency"?
            2. Cindy Morales- asked if the City would entertain a Safe Sleep program as surrounding areas have implemented. And wanted to know what sites may be available for this?
            3. Lucy Cartagena- Commented to the Commission that the fact that the City took the site offer to Council first should be alarming to them. She says the area is already saturated by drug use and that it will further impact the community negatively. She would like to see a cost analysis between the current site and the alternative site.

    b. Status of Ormond Beach encampment- a police effort to address the encampments is underway. There are fourteen left. During a visit there are about two case managers to address the needs of the population for those who welcome help. The site should be abated by the end of the month. There are three other properties where there are encampments. Private land code violations will be issued, a different process is required in this case. To avoid future encampments presence is the greatest deterrent. There are two species of endangered birds on this area, nesting starts in March.

5. NEW BUSINESS
    a. Retreat Session for the Commission- The commission discussed past retreats and what they would like to tackle during this session. They would like the retreat to be an opportunity to plan their future efforts.

6. OLD BUSINESS
    a. Changing the conversation- an initiative to help out the cause by speaking beyond housing, mental health, drug use. Emilio suggested the commission lookup Miracle Messages, an organization that helps people experiencing homelessness reconnect with their long-lost loved ones. Peggy Rivera would like to initiate funding efforts to help fund the shelter. Past Black & White dinner/dance fundraising efforts have been very successful in raising funds.

7. ADJOURNMENT
    There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Angelica Navarro