



## HOMELESS TASK FORCE Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, June 10, 2015  
5:00 PM  
2000 Main Street  
Lower Level Meeting Room B-8

### **In Attendance**

**City Staff:** Chief Robert Handy, Captain Dave Bunetta, Lt. Kelly Rodriguez, Teri Baker, Kellee Fritzal, Maxwell Daffron

**Task Force Members:** Vicki Boatman, Dave Moses, Ron Kupferstein, Joseph Sullivan, Hector Valdez, Bill Blair, Ralph Bauer

### **1. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes/person)**

- Gina Clayton–Tarvin, Ocean View School District President, Discussed the different classifications of homeless youth. Stated that OVSD has resources to help with homeless youth and that the district uses preventative actions such as self assessment forms to monitor students and understand which students may need help. She requested the opportunity to give a full presentation to the Taskforce to seek additional funding.
- Pat Goodman – Thanked the Taskforce for their commitment to the homeless issue and recommended members to become familiar with the SHIP program operated by the local faith based churches.

### **2. Presentation by Lt. Kelly Rodriguez, Huntington Beach Police Department, Addressing Homelessness in Huntington Beach – A Community Outreach Program Approach**

Lt. Kelly Rodriguez presented on the homeless issue in Huntington Beach from a Police Department standpoint, as well as a City standpoint. She began her presentation with a list of major offenses related to the homeless and then broke down how homeless offenses (i.e. littering, public defecating, etc.) negatively impact multiple city departments as well as the community as a whole. She stated that there are approximately 214 homeless people living in Huntington Beach, or .14% of the population. She also stated that the Public Works Department spent \$131,000 on the cleaning of two parks with homeless encampments within the City.

After providing a general overview of the issue, Lt. Rodriguez broke down what is being done to facilitate outreach to the homeless population. She informed the Taskforce that the City has contracted with Coast to Coast and since April 1, 2015. Since that time, Coast to Coast and the Police Department have worked closely with 27 homeless and have been able to provide

housing for four people. In this same amount of time, 5 housing opportunities were rejected at the last minute by homeless citizens. Lt. Rodriguez stated that Coast to Coast and BCIS are hosting a carnival in August to raise money for additional homeless outreach services.

Lt. Rodriguez discussed the difficulties and limitations in handling the homeless population. She began this discussion with the example that homeless people handed over to the County mental health system are released in an average of 11.5 hours. She stated that the County position on mental health puts the City in a difficult position especially when there situations where the police responded to 12 mentally ill homeless situations within a ten hour shift.

Chief Handy discussed that the City is currently involved with other programs to help with the homeless issue but that this presentation was meant to provide a broad picture. He also clarified that the contract with Coast to Coast was a non-financial contract.

Ron Kupferstein provided the suggestion that perhaps Golden West College Interns could receive internship credit from working with the police department in homeless outreach regarding mental health services.

Ralph Bauer asked the Chief and Lt. Rodriguez about the possibility of transporting some of our homeless to American Family Housing projects. Lt. Rodriguez stated that Chief Handy has allowed the police department to help prepare more people to move into housing opportunities so that may be an option in the future. The stance that the HBPD takes on homelessness allows the department to transport homeless in certain situations.

Joe Sullivan asked if the Taskforce could potentially take a closer look at the at-risk homeless. Lt. Rodriguez stated that the faith based community provides a great role model for handling the at risk homeless, and that she would love to see the committee focus on this issue. Kellee Fritzel stated that the City is investigating the creation of a Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program to help the at risk stay within their homes.

### **3. Discussion and Brainstorming Regarding Desired Information/Speakers and focus of the Task Force - a list of potential speakers/topics will be provided at the meeting - Muriel**

Muriel Ullman from the City of Costa Mesa provided a timeline of possible speakers and topics for the Taskforce to take a look at and discuss. These topics ranged from "what are faith based organizations and nonprofits doing in the City to combat homelessness" to "Centralized Homeless Coordination & Building a Strategic Network of Resources". These topics were chosen because it is important to understand what is going on in the environment around the City to make the proper recommendations.

Muriel Ullman asked the Taskforce if anyone would be interested in a fieldtrip to see what other cities and faith based organizations do to handle the homeless situation. The Taskforce was amenable to the possibility of a field trip.

Ron Kupferstein asked if he could talk to some of his friends in the medical field about the homeless issue if he were to keep the Taskforce within the loop. The Taskforce agreed and stated that they think it is a good idea to investigate what the medical community thinks about the homeless issue in the City.

Joe Sullivan made the point that one topic should focus on what the City does already, so that the Taskforce does not provide a redundant recommendation on the issue. The rest of the Taskforce agreed with his suggestion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

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