

## Revised proposal from Housing Subcommittee 1

Based initially on 12/22/15 meeting of Ralph Bauer, Dave Moses, Joe Sullivan  
Revised after 1/12/16 meeting of Dave Moses, Joe Sullivan, Kellee Fritzal, Catherine Lukehart

Availability of housing assistance and additional housing for homeless or low-income city residents will be essential to making any headway against the growing number of homeless people in Huntington Beach. We would like to make recommendations for City Council review that will result in increased availability of housing for the target populations, which include homeless families with income streams, families and single people who have recently become homeless and are ready to work within available programs, and single people for whom homelessness is a way of life or caused by mental illness.

We recommend action in three areas where additional housing could be made available:

- 1) Short term – make more existing rental housing accessible to people in need.
- 2) Medium term – support construction of additional low-income housing units.
- 3) Long term – develop temporary housing for homeless people, with associated services.

Further developing these ideas:

(1) There are families who can get the financial help they need to rent an apartment, but have a difficult time finding an apartment where the owner will accept third party payment. Local charitable organizations have funding available to support such families, but need landlords willing to take the risk and accept renters subsidized by third parties. We recommend that a city employee such as a Homeless Services Coordinator be tasked with cultivating landlords of existing apartments in the City to cooperate in this effort. This Coordinator should be given resources, including interns or volunteers, as needed to develop a list of landlords willing to help in this effort. If only 10% of local landlords agreed to take third party payments, that would make a significant number of additional housing units available.

(2) Under State law, cities must require a certain percentage of new housing units be designated for low-income residents, although developers may try to minimize the number of such units they must construct. We recommend that the City Council take steps to insure that an appropriate percentage of low income housing units are required and constructed in all new developments, and believe the Homeless Services Coordinator's office could solicit relationships with low-income housing builders to facilitate this. Building more low-income housing units will keep more vulnerable City residents from falling into homelessness.

(3) We recommend that Huntington Beach take a lead role in working with nearby cities to develop a temporary housing location with a significant number of shelter beds, like the Kraemer Multi-Service Center recently approved by the County Supervisors for construction in Anaheim. This will provide temporary shelter that could be managed securely and paired up with services (hygiene, counseling, medical, budgeting, mental health, personal storage, job training, bus access, etc.) to allow homeless people to begin improving their situations.

In addition to the above, we are aware that the City has set aside some funds to be used for short-term housing of homeless people in emergency situations; these funds enable the police to pay for a hotel room to take someone off the street overnight and keep them safe until they can access services the next day. We applaud this approach, and recommend that such funding be renewed so the police will continue to have this tool available in the fight against homelessness.