Addressing Homelessness

Navigation Center Proposal

April 15, 2019

Overview

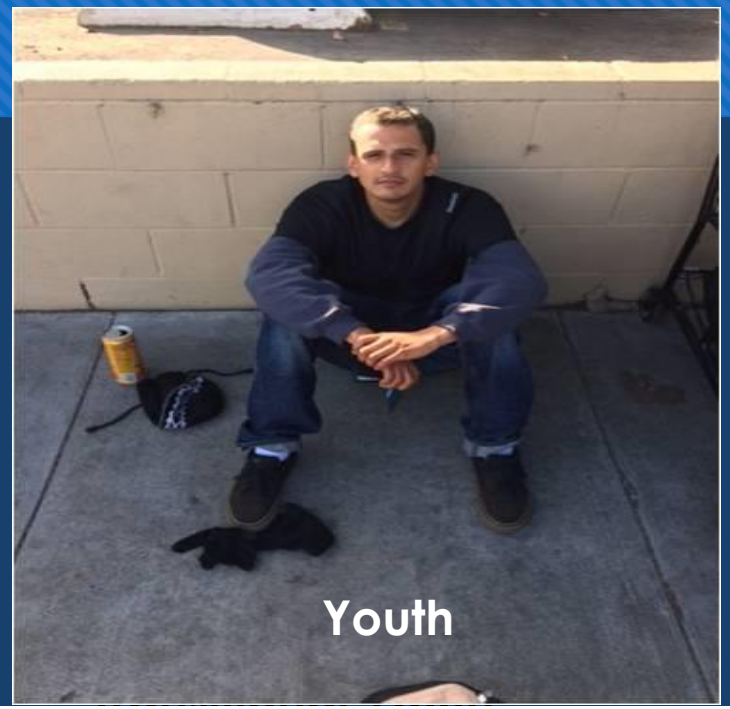
- Who are the Homeless?
- Orange County Backdrop
  - Rise in Homeless population
  - Enforcement of Anti-Camping Ordinances
  - Current Litigation
- Navigation Shelter Proposal
  - Summary of Proposal
  - Safety and Security
- Recap

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- The presence of homeless individuals is not new, nor is the issue confined to Huntington Beach
- There has been a public outcry due to homeless encampments and debris throughout the County

WHO ARE THE HOMELESS?

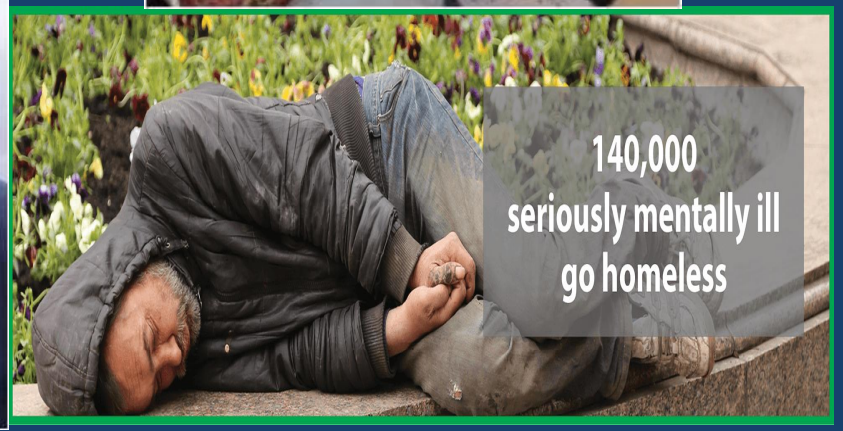
Veterans



Youth

Women

Families



Point-in-Time Census and Survey

2017 and 2019

2017 Results - Sheltered

- PIT count was ONE night only. Numbers were not based completely on an actual head count, but rather on a statistical data
- 89 individuals are in Transitional Housing or Emergency Shelters; 77% of those are female
- 61% of the sheltered homeless population consists of families

2017 Results - Unsheltered

- 119 individuals were counted as unsheltered/homeless
- 97% of the unsheltered are adults over the age of 24

2019 Point-in-Time Count

- Volunteers attempted to get a true head count of homeless individuals living in shelters and outdoors, as well as those in vehicles
- For Huntington Beach, the 2019 count occurred over TWO days and nights - January 23rd and 24th, - from 3 a.m. to 10a.m and 6pm to midnight. The results have not been released
- Council Members, along with 200 volunteers, participated in the count
- Due to the more accurate counting method, there will likely be an increase in the number of homeless, but the official count has not been released

Orange County Demographics

Point In Time Survey

How many?

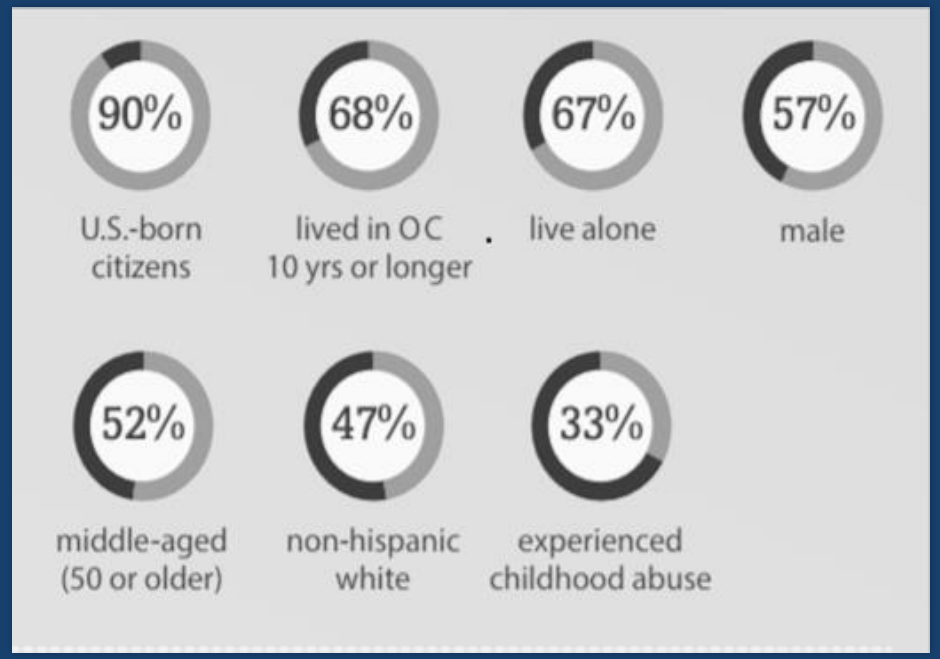
2015

- 2,200 Unsheltered Homeless (Including 360 Veterans)
- 4,500 Homeless

2017

- 2,600 Unsheltered Homeless
- 4,800 Homeless

Who are they?



WHAT HAVE WE DONE ABOUT IT?

Evolution of City Efforts

October 2013 - HBPD identified 130-150 homeless persons and officers attempt to provide ancillary assistance

March 2015 - City Council created Community Homeless Task Force

September 2015 - HBPD assigns Officer Ricci as first full-time officer dedicated to homelessness issues

November 2016 – Homeless Outreach Coordinator hired to assist Officer Ricci with housing efforts for homeless

January 2016- HBPD adds a second full-time Police Officer to assist with homeless issues

March 2016 – The Community Homeless Task Force presented 22 recommendations to City Council

November 2016 – First Case Manager hired to assist with housing our homeless

Evolution of City Efforts

2017 City Council appointed ad-hoc City Council subcommittee

November 2017 - Library Services trained Librarian in Mental Health Intervention for homeless patrons

2017 Public works entered into contract for encampment debris removal 3 days per week

2018 2nd and 3rd Case Managers hired to assist Officers and homeless individuals and families with housing efforts

April 2018 Creation of Homelessness Solutions Coalition

March 2019 OBD Staff and Case Managers visit numerous OC shelters

April 2019 - City hosts two open houses for Navigation Center

Homeless Task Force Accomplishments

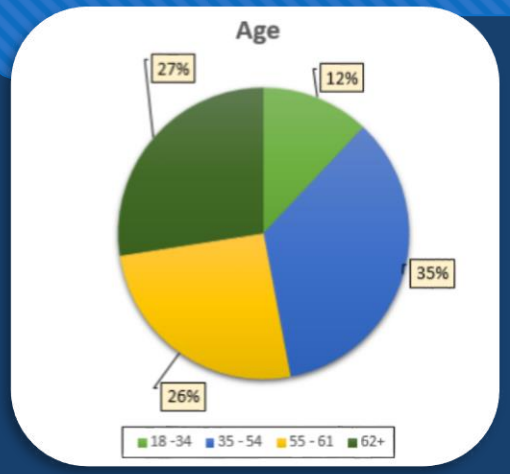
2015 – PRESENT

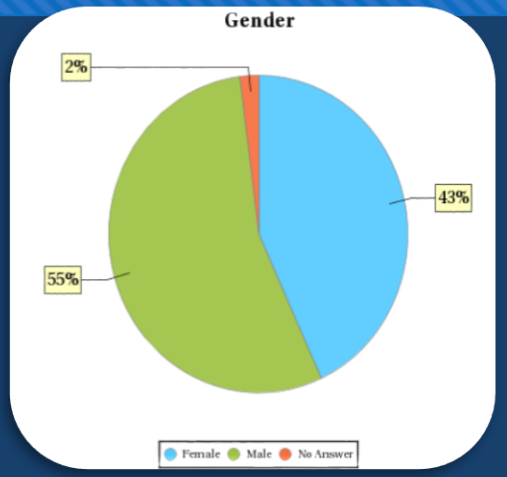
- Off the Streets – **262** (with **70** being reunified with family)
- Total Officer Contacts – over **2600** (many duplicative)
- Officer Assistance – over **700** occasions
- Case Manager Contacts (since May 2018) – over **1100**

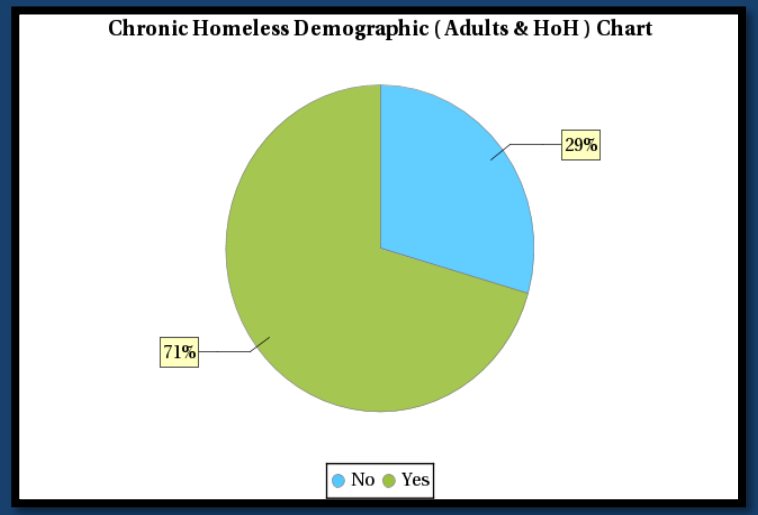
Homeless Task Force Accomplishments

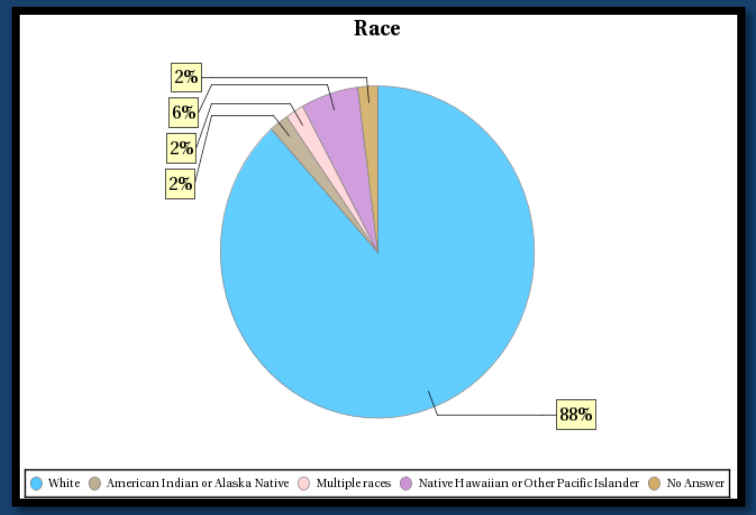
- Reunite individuals throughout United States with family
- Engage in eviction prevention (**11** people)
- Attend weekly County Housing Match Meetings with other cities and nonprofits
- Maintain open office hours at the South Police Substation for walk-ins
- Conduct outreach twice weekly
- Welcome citizen participation – outreach location suggestions, donations, client referrals, jobs, professional services
- Act as Family Access Point for homeless families
- Interact with local schools for issues regarding homeless and housing insecure children

HB Homeless Demographic Information (Age, Race, Gender, Chronic Homelessness)

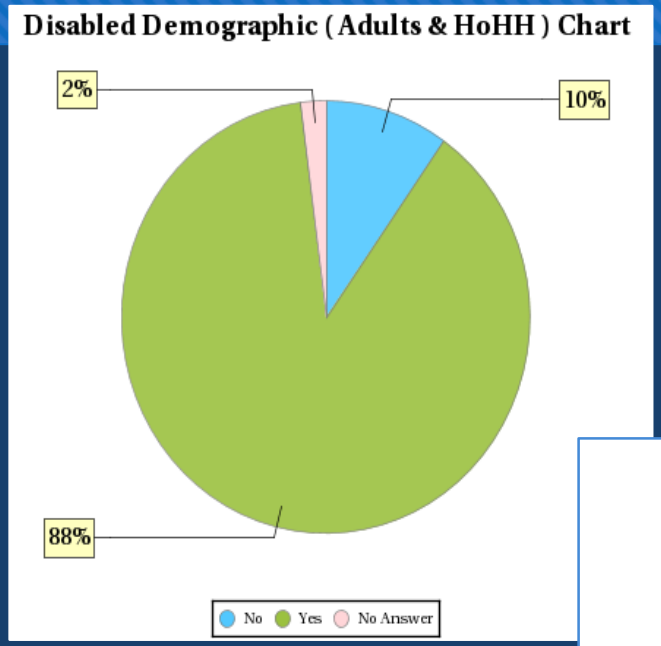


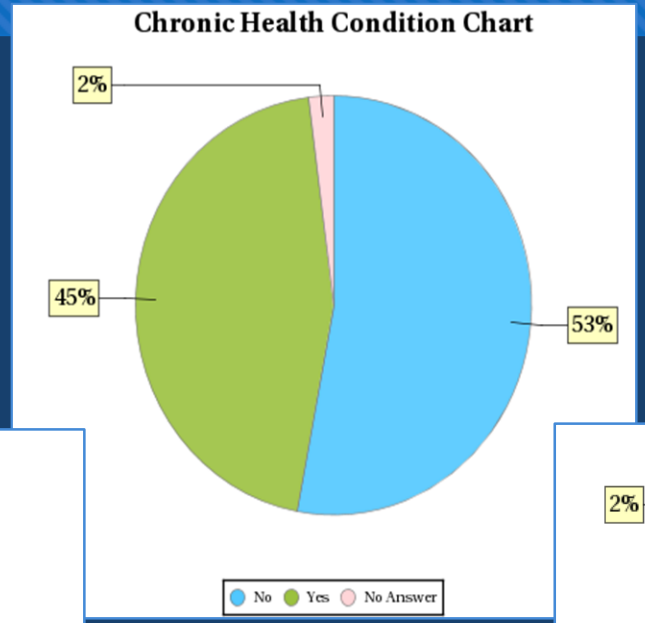


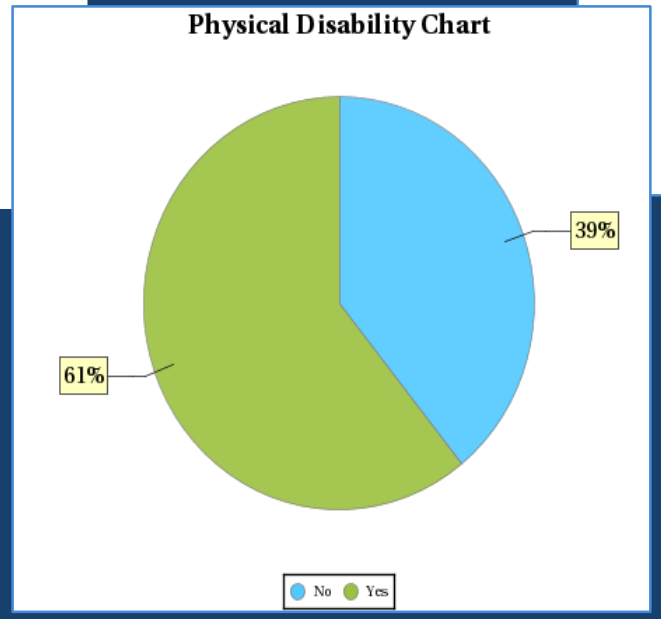


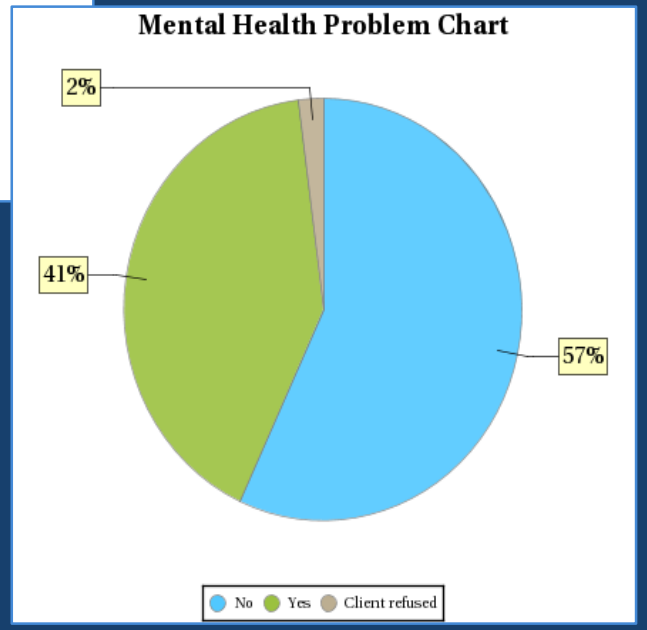


HB Homeless Demographic Information Disabilities









The City's Impact on a Life

- Kenny's Story of Restoration

Countywide Challenges

- A massive encampment grew in Anaheim, along the Santa Ana River Bed
- Approximately 700 homeless individuals camped there. The public grew upset at the appearance of the encampment and the loss of the public space
- Santa Ana's Civic Center had an even larger homeless population, many of whom were camping in the open space next to the courthouse.

Federal Lawsuits Filed Against County/Cities

- When the County moved to clear the homeless from the river bed, advocates for the homeless filed Federal lawsuits
- They claimed the homeless were driven there when surrounding cities started enforcing their anti-camping and loitering ordinances

Comments on Federal Authorities

Federal District Court

- The cases were consolidated and assigned to the Honorable David O. Carter of the Second District Court in Santa Ana
- Judge Carter has been working with all 34 Orange County cities to identify solutions to the challenges related to homelessness

Limitations placed on Anti-Camping Ordinance by Court

KPCC

Judge Halts Clearing of Orange County Homeless Encampments

LISTEN 1 min

An Orange County sheriff's deputy patrols the homeless encampment along the Santa Ana River near Angel Stadium on Jan. 22, 2018. A federal judge ordered the county on Feb. 7 not to enforce anti-trespassing laws in the area until the court holds a hearing on the issue scheduled for Feb. 13. **(Jill Replogle/KPCC)**

- Soon after the cases were filed, Judge Carter issued a Temporary Restraining Order prohibiting the County and named cities from clearing the encampments until alternatives could be found.

Which cities or entities have been sued?

- The County of Orange has been sued
- The cities of Anaheim, Orange, and Cost Mesa were also sued along with the County of Orange
- A second lawsuit has been filed against Irvine, Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, and San Clemente
- Huntington Beach has not been sued at this time

Impact of Federal Lawsuits on Cities

- Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Tustin have opened homeless shelters
- Costa Mesa opened a temporary shelter and purchased a permanent shelter for $6.9M
- Shelter residents must have ties to those cities, so HB homeless cannot utilize them
- The above cities may now enforce their anti-camping ordinances, which may increase the homeless population in Huntington Beach

What if We Do Nothing?

- When Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, Tustin and Anaheim start enforcing their anti-camping ordinances and park closing hours, homeless can no longer camp in their parks, sidewalks and civic center
- Enforcement efforts against those who refuse to sleep in a shelter could simply serve to push homeless into cities that do not have a shelter.
- If the HBPD is to enforce anti-camping, trespassing and loitering ordinances, officers must be able to offer the alternative of a Huntington Beach shelter bed. Officers currently do not have that ability.
- Potentially costly lawsuits against the City can be avoided with a shelter.

Huntington Beach Proposed Navigation Center

WHAT TYPE OF SHELTER MUST HUNTINGTON BEACH CREATE?

- To serve our HB homeless, an emergency homeless shelter facility should have low barriers to entry, be ADA accessible, and serve men, women, and couples. Other cities will not be permitted to place their homeless in the HB shelter.

- Per Judge Carter, the shelter should serve up to 60 percent of the City's last point-in-time count of Unsheltered homeless.

- As of the 2017, Point-in-Time Count the number of unsheltered was 119 homeless individuals

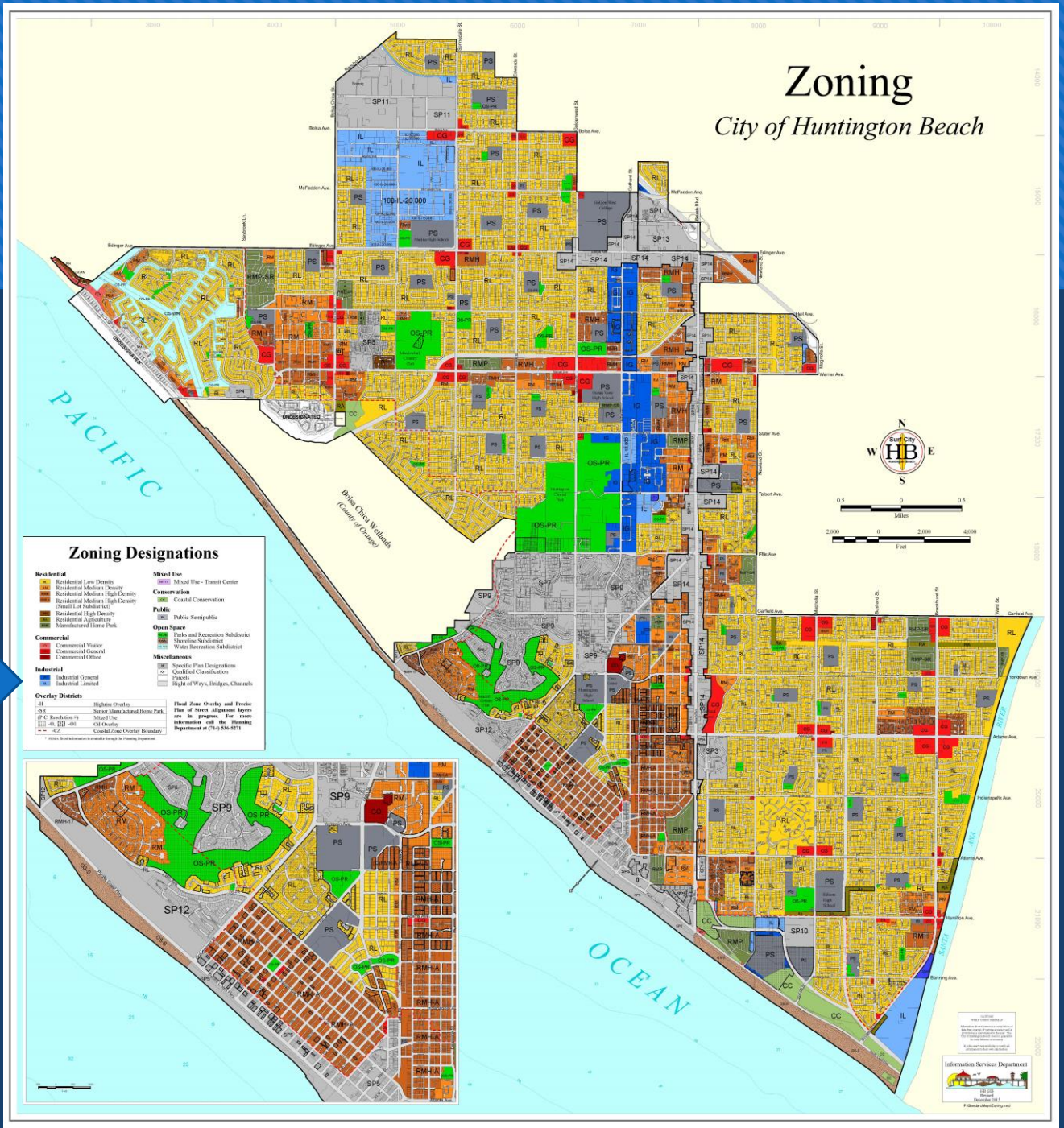
WHAT SITES DID WE CONSIDER? TIMEFRAME?

- Huntington Beach considered **28 separate sites**
  - Sites located in Industrial "SB 2" Zone
  - **26** Industrial Zoned areas reviewed
  - Two City-owned sites

- Evaluated sites, both for sale or lease

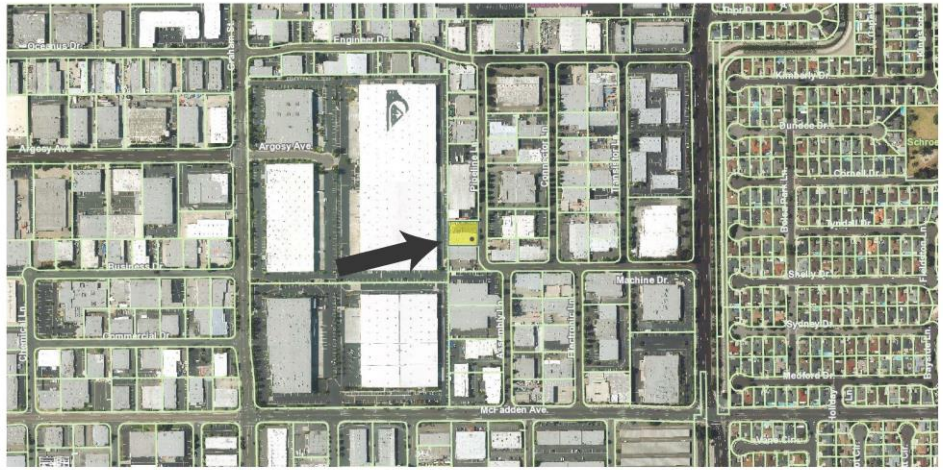
- Judge Carter's status conference on **April 2, 2019** with all **34 cities** was the goal date for the identification of a site

Looked at Industrial areas within the City



Addressing
HOMELESSNESS
in Huntington Beach

FACT SHEET



15311 Pipeline Lane, Huntington Beach

Specifics
-- 75 to 90 bed shelter/11,200 sq. feet
-- Nearest residential - 1,380 ft.; nearest school - 2,819 ft.; nearest park - 2,300 ft.
-- City to hire security for 24/7 coverage on-site, as well as a 24-hour hotline to report concerns
-- No "walk ins" or "walk outs"
-- Clients must be screened and go through an approval process prior to being accepted to the Center
-- Clients will only be driven to the site and/or away from the site. No loitering on or near the site
-- Site will be fenced around the property
-- Enhanced Huntington Beach Police Department service
-- Length of stay — up to 90 days
-- No clients with open felony warrants or registered offenders
-- Serve adult men, women and couples
-- Pets allowed - muzzled

Potential Partnerships
-- City will issue a Request For Proposals for a highly qualified Shelter Operator
-- Operator will need to provide shuttle services and case management

Community Outreach
-- An Open House is scheduled for businesses/employers near the site on Tuesday, April 9 from 4 to 6 p.m.
-- A Community Open House for residents will be held Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Central Library

WWW.HUNTINGTONBEACHCA.GOV/HOMELESSNESS

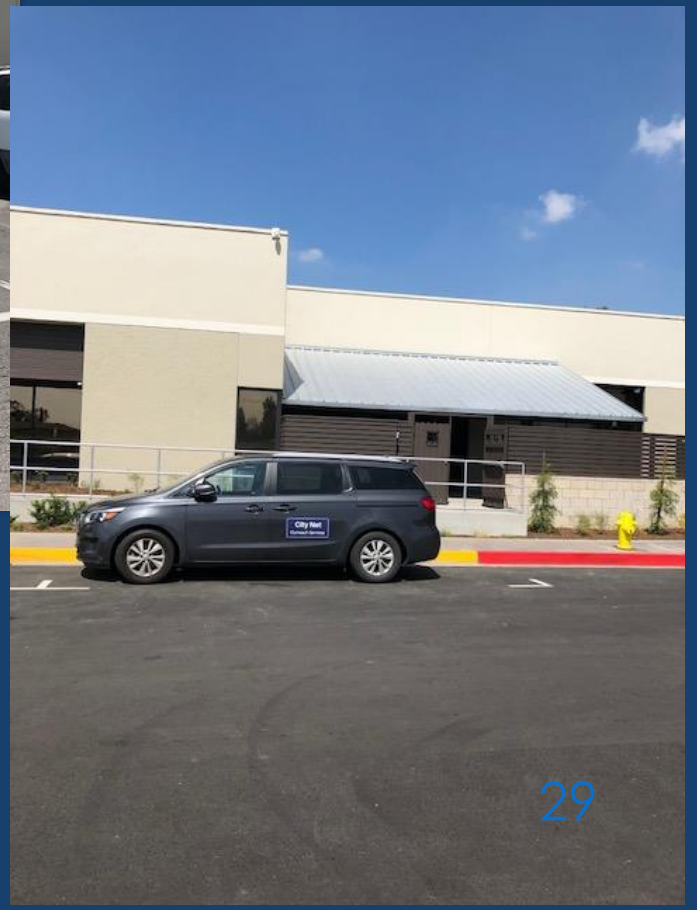
HIGHLIGHTS

- 75 to 90 Bed Emergency Shelter
  - ✓ Women
  - ✓ Men
  - ✓ Couples
- No Walk-in/Walk-out
- By referral only
- Clients must be pre-approved
- Length of stay — 90 days
- No open felony warrants
- No registered sex offenders

Who Can Use the Navigation Center?

- The Navigation Center will serve Huntington Beach homeless men, women, and couples with strong ties to the community, such as:
    1. Last Permanent Address in Huntington Beach; driver's license, utility bill, rental agreement, bank statements, car registration, or other documentation as such.
    2. Children enrolled in Huntington Beach school (proof of enrollment), employed in Huntington Beach (proof of paystubs), graduated from a Huntington Beach high school (proof of graduation).
    3. Huntington Beach Police Department verification.

Shelter Examples



Blends with other industrial buildings

No signage identifying the Center

No processing of clients outside the building

SAFETY AND SECURITY

THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IS OF PARAMOUNT CONCERN.

All decisions by the City and the shelter operator will be driven by this factor first.

GOAL: To provide the most effective shelter system that has no negative impact on the well-being of any resident, business or visitor of Huntington Beach

SAFETY AND SECURITY KEY COMPONENTS

- **ENHANCED POLICE PRESENCE** HBPD Officers will be working in the area surrounding the site to help ensure public safety
- **24/7 ONSITE SECURITY AND HOTLINE** 24/7 on-site security will prohibit loitering around the facility and a 24 hour hotline will be provided
- **HIGH DEFINITION DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE** of the facility to provide supplemental security assistance and to identify any policy violations
- **PERIMTER FENCING** The proposed facility will be entirely enclosed within newly installed security fencing. The fence will be eight feet in height and installed around the entire perimeter of the site

SAFETY AND SECURITY KEY COMPONENTS

- **NO LOITERING** Security guards will enforce a strict policy prohibiting loitering around the facility
- **NO "WALK-UPS"** Admission will be by referral only and the facility team will coordinate client transportation to and from the facility before any clients travel to or exit from the property
- **NO "WALK-OUTS"** Individuals exiting the facility must have a pre-arranged transportation plan (Those who violate that rule will be subject to loss of rights to return to the facility)
- **GATES** will be locked and access controlled

SAFETY AND SECURITY KEY COMPONENTS

- **STRICT HOURS** There will be strict hours of ingress and egress during which clients may be admitted and discharged
- **PROFESSIONAL SHELTER OPERATORS** will oversee and manage daily operations with the guidelines and standards established by the City according to best practices and our specific needs
- **EXCLUSION OF VIOLATORS** Any individual who cannot abide by the rules of the Center, will be excluded from future services
- **INTAKE SCREENING** Each individual will be vetted by performing a personalized intake interview. Certain individuals – those with open felony warrants and sex registrants - are prohibited

SAFETY AND SECURITY RECAP

- **SAFETY AND SECURITY is #1 PRIORITY**
- **MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS PLAN** The shelter operator will need to work with the City to develop its management operations plan.
- The security aspects of the plan will be reviewed and approved by the Police Department

Community Engagement

City of
Huntington Beach

Community Invited!

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN HB OPEN HOUSE

The City is considering opening a shelter at 15311 Pipeline Lane later this year.

We invite you to come and:

- Share your thoughts and provide input
- Hear from City staff, law enforcement, community partners and experts in shelter operations
- Learn more about the City's approach in dealing with this complex issue

Saturday, April 13, 2019
10 a.m. to Noon

Central Library
7111 Talbert Ave.
Rooms C & D
RSVP: 714.536.5577

www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/homelessness

Open Houses and Community Meetings

- **Tuesday, April 9, 2019** – Business Open House
- **Saturday, April 13, 2019** – Community Open House
- If Center is approved, additional Open Houses and/or community events will be scheduled as needed
- More information can be found on the City's website at:
  - www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/homelessness

Citizen's Advisory Board

- To assist with the oversight of the Navigation Center and to facilitate community engagement, a Citizen's Advisory Board can be created
- The Citizen's Advisory Board could be comprised of various community stakeholders including:
  - Residents
  - Nearby businesses
  - School District Representatives
  - Other Stakeholders

A CASE STUDY
THE LINK: IN SANTA ANA

About The Link – Santa Ana

- The Link is a 24-hour emergency homeless shelter.
- Serves homeless men, women, families with minor-aged children women, and adult couples.
- The shelter's primary focus is assisting program participants with creating a housing plan, making connections to housing resources and ending their homelessness as soon as possible.
- The Link has 200 beds and dedicated office and meeting space for additional services.
- U.S. District Judge David O. Carter has publicly labeled the creation of this shelter as a "role model" for the county, the state, and "maybe the nation."
- The Link maintains a strict no-walk-up policy. Clients without personal vehicles must take the shuttle to and from the shelter. Bicycle racks are available on the shuttle and must be used for those who own bikes.

Recap

- The City has been addressing the challenge of homelessness since 2013
- The City's Homeless Task Force has been working on a daily basis to address homeless issues in our City
- The safety and security of our residents and businesses is our primary goal
- A Navigation Center helps ensure the City can enforce its laws
- We will continue to keep the City Council advised of further developments with the Federal District Court

QUESTIONS?