



October 4, 2022

The Honorable Erick L. Larsh  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, California 92701

Re: La Palma's Response to Grand Jury Report

Dear Honorable Judge Larsh:

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you how La Palma, along with 11 other cities in North Orange County, have teamed up to address the homelessness crisis on a regional level. Below please find the City's response to the findings/recommendations presented by the Grand Jury.

**F3 The County of Orange and cities within Orange County have been inconsistent in collaboration for support of shelters and services, which has resulted in missed opportunities to end homelessness.**

**Response: Disagree.** The twelve (12) North Service Planning Area (NSPA) cities, including La Palma, have collaborated together with the County of Orange to construct and operate two (2) Navigation Centers to provide shelter and comprehensive wraparound services to our unsheltered residents of North County. As part of the collaboration, the North SPA cities entered into a settlement agreement between the County of Orange and homeless advocates as well as developed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between all participating cities to determine governance, cost share, and operational responsibilities. This model has demonstrated to be effective at addressing the regional nature of homelessness within the North SPA and cities within and beyond Orange County are looking at implementing a similar model.

As cities alone, it is not feasible to end homelessness. We are currently managing homelessness within the North SPA; however, more needs to be done by the County and State. There is a need for other resources in regard to mental health and the housing crisis.

**F4 There are an insufficient number of rental units available to those exiting Emergency Shelters, resulting in the majority returning to homelessness when leaving the shelter.**

**Response: Partially Agree.** While some progress has been made, there continues to be an ever-growing deficit of affordable and low-income housing. The deficit is accompanied by the

terms/conditions that many individuals experiencing homelessness cannot meet (background check, credit check, 3 times/rent amount, etc.) There is also a lack of services to help individuals retain their housing once they move in. Many individuals who experience homelessness need ongoing high level, case management/wrap around support services for a period after moving into a permanent home.

**R4 By July 2024, the County of Orange and cities and should collaborate to open facilities that can house people with severe and persistent mental illness and addiction issues in a secure setting.**

**Response: Agree.**

**R5 By July 2023, the County of Orange, cities and CoC should collaborate to encourage the development of housing affordable to individuals exiting the emergency shelters in Orange County.**

**Response: Agree.**

**R6 By December 1, 2022, the County of Orange, cities and CoC should collaborate to increase the number of housing opportunities for Transitional Aged Youth.**

**Response: Agree.**

If there are additional questions, please contact Conal McNamara, City Manager, at (714) 690-3334.

Sincerely,

  
Michele Steggell  
Mayor