



November 2, 2018

Honorable Charles Margines
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL RESPONSE: CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH RESPONSE TO THE 2017-2018 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT, "WHERE THERE'S WILL, THERE'S A WAY: HOUSING ORANGE COUNTY'S CHRONICALLY HOMELESS."

Dear Judge Margines:

On October 18, 2018, the 2018-2019 Orange County Grand Jury Foreperson Birgit Sale requested that the City of Laguna Beach provide a "further response compliant with the Penal Code", regarding the 2017-2018 Grand Jury report regarding homelessness issues in Orange County. As requested, I am submitting the requested supplemental response for Recommendations R1, R2, R6, R7, R8, and R9.

Responses to Recommendations R1, R2, R6, R7, R8, R9

Recommendation R1: Orange County cities and the County should develop a Permanent Supportive Housing development plan, and should consider a plan structure similar to the proposal put forth by the Association of California Cities – Orange County, that proportionally allocates sites among the cities. (F1, F2, F4, F7, F8)

Response: The recommendation has been implemented in that Assembly Bill (AB) 448 has been enacted and cities are working with the County and the Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACCOC) to form a Housing Trust and refine a plan for the fair and equitable distribution of permanent supportive housing and other facilities in the County. Since Laguna Beach is the only city that owns and operates its own emergency shelter, which has operated year-round since 2009, it is very supportive of regional efforts to provide permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter beds and transitional housing in other areas of the County.

Recommendation R2: Each Service Planning Area should identify sites for Permanent Supportive Housing proportional to the allocation suggested in the Association of California Cities – Orange County proposal. (F1, F4)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Cities are working with the County, partnering with other cities in Judge Carter's court room, and working with ACC-OC to identify sites for permanent supportive housing, and other types of housing (emergency, transitional, etc) necessary to develop a comprehensive system of care. Laguna Beach is hopeful that plans will emerge in the next few months but cannot control the actions of the County, courts, and other cities.

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Recommendation R6: Cities should collaborate with, and leverage the work done by, the United Way on their “United to End Homelessness” public awareness campaign. (F7)

Response: The recommendation has been implemented as cities are working with the County to try and address homelessness.

Recommendation R7: To streamline shelter and Permanent Supportive Housing development, the County and cities should establish a decision-making body, such as a Joint Powers Authority, that is empowered to identify and allocate sites and pool funding associated with housing and supportive services for the homeless. (F1, F3, F4, F7, F8, F9, F10)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented however it will be in the future. AB 448 has been enacted paving the way for the creation of a Housing Trust organization in Orange County. Orange County cities and the County are discussing the appropriate governance structure and powers for the Housing Trust. Although the Housing Trust will not have land use authority over local government agencies, it will allow participating cities and the County to pool funds that will be used to site and develop housing units. The Orange County City Manager’s Association has appointed three members to work with ACC-OC to develop the Housing Trust. A proposal for consideration by cities is expected within a few months.

Recommendation R8: Such a decision-making body should develop a comprehensive, regional housing business plan that identifies both the number of Permanent Supportive Housing units needed, as well as the associated costs of renovating existing units or building new ones. (F1, F2, F3, F4, F8, F9, F10)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented however it will be in the future. The Housing Trust that is being formed will take the lead on developing a comprehensive business plan for the creation of permanent supportive housing. The plan will also address the creation of emergency shelter beds, transitional housing, and appropriate support services. Priorities will be established, and appropriate funding sources and locations identified to implement the plan on a regional basis. A plan should be ready in the next six months or so.

Recommendation R9: Such a decision-making body should propose a plan for securing local, supplemental sources of funding for both Permanent Supportive Housing development and associated support services. (F1, F3, F8, F9, F10)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented however it will be in the future. A Housing Trust is expected to be formed in the next six months or so and they will publish a plan for securing funding for permanent supportive housing and related services. The plan should also address the creation of other forms of affordable housing to produce a comprehensive system of care.

Sincerely,



John Pietig
City Manager

cc: City Council