



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, August 13, 2015, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
City Hall Community Room
2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, CA 93063

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
2. Agenda Review
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Public Statements/Comments
This is the time allotted for statements or comments on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the Task Force on Homelessness. Statements and comments are limited to no more than five (5) minutes per speaker.
5. Informational Presentations
 - a. Success Story of a Formally Homeless Individual
 - b. Overview of the HomeShare Program
6. New Business
 - a. Discussion and recommendation of proposed changes to Transit Fares and Senior Service Age
 - b. Discussion of the recommendations of the 2015 Ventura County Homeless Count
 - c. Discussion of Implementing a Community Homeless Education Campaign
7. Task Force Member Comments
This is the time allotted for Task Force member statements or comments on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the Task Force on Homelessness, to request a future agenda item, or to give an Ad Hoc Committee Report. This is also the time to make any announcements related to community events and other items of interest.
8. Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report
9. Adjournment: Thursday, November 12, 2015, 3:30 p.m.

/s/ _____
Sommer Barwick
Director of Community Services

If any interested individual has a disability that may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator at (805) 583-6762. Upon advance notification, reasonable arrangements will be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS
DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Council Member Keith Mashburn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Jennifer Santos noted that a quorum was present. The attendance detail is available on the last page of the minutes.

2. Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as presented

3. Approval of Minutes

Jennifer Santos requested a correction to reflect that John Tolson was present at the February 12, 2015 meeting. By the consensus of the Task Force, the February 12, 2015 minutes were approved as corrected.

4. Public Statements/Comments

A homeless resident expressed concerns about the ability to sleep in her vehicle and stated that the City should modify the Municipal Code to allow homeless individuals to sleep in the vehicles in designated areas at night.

5. Informational Presentations

a. Overview of the 2015 Homeless Persons Count Results

Tara Carruth, from the Ventura County Executive Office provided a summary of the 2015 Ventura County Homeless Count and Survey. There were 1,417 homeless adults and children counted during the point-in-time count. This represents a two percent decrease from 2014 in which 1,449 homeless individuals were counted and the lowest since 2007 when 1,961 homeless individuals were counted. The targeted goal is to prioritize the most vulnerable homeless individuals and those who are chronically homeless. From the Count, Ventura and Simi Valley both have over 50 percent chronically homeless individuals, 56 percent and 58 percent respectively. The percentage of chronically homeless across the county is higher than the national average but similar to other coastal California communities. The Ventura County Continuum of Care is working with service providers to develop and implement a Coordinated Entry system to take homeless individuals who have the highest scores of vulnerability, such as chronically homeless, and match them with housing. The Housing First/Permanent Supportive Housing model is what is necessary to reduce homelessness and over 1,000 very low affordable housing units are needed in the County to provide adequate housing. Also, a regional collaboration between local leaders who are able provide different strategies and efforts are needed to further reduce homelessness within the County.

b. Status Update of the Homeless Encampment Abatement Program

Simi Valley Police Sergeant Steve Shorts stated that the Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) continue to conduct street outreach with case managers from the Samaritan Center, Lutheran Social Services, and Ventura County Behavior Health. Recently, clean-up of the illegal homeless encampments have included approximately 34.5 tons of trash, 4.5 tons of construction material, and 1.5 tons of metal. The Police Department will host "The Care Project Homeless Outreach Event" to connect homeless individuals to resources and services at one location. The event will occur on Thursday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Simi Valley Library Community Room. For additional information about the event, please contact Officer Sean Baker at (805) 583-6215.

Sergeant Shorts, the CLOs, and other law enforcement agencies throughout Southern California receive specialized mental health training to work effectively with homeless individuals. Yesterday, he provided a Crisis Intervention Training for entry level officers from different local law enforcement agencies on how to work with individuals who have a mental health illness.

He expressed the continued importance of working with social service providers to identify the most vulnerable homeless individuals and make it a priority to work together to have them engage into services. During those rare occasions the Police Department is in need of emergency hotel vouchers to assist individuals to stay in a hotel, or obtain tickets for public transportation to reconnect them to supported services outside the community. Betty Eskey stated that the Samaritan Center can assist with bus tokens. However, there is a challenge of obtaining reduced hotel vouchers within the community and it may be prudent to work with the Simi Valley Chamber to obtain vouchers.

c. Overview of the Interface Children & Family Services Youth Crisis Outreach Shelter

Melissa Perezchica-Ramirez, Youth Crisis Outreach Program Manager of Interface Children & Family Services provided an overview of the youth crisis outreach shelter. Interface partnered with the City of Ventura and obtained the support of the neighborhood to open the runaway shelter in November 2014. The shelter assists youth from all over Ventura County, who are between the ages of 12-17, are homeless, have been kicked out of homes, run away from home, or are thinking about running away. The youth stay one night to a maximum of 21 days. The goal of the program is to have the youth reunify with their family or to provide a safe exit to stable housing. Sheltered youth also learn about life skills and are given access to computers, and social media. Since opening, 28 youth have entered

into the program and there has been a 90 percent reunification success rate with their families. Case management will also continue for a minimum of six months after the youth leave the shelter program.

6. New Business

- a. Discussion and recommendation of partnering with Ventura County 211 to replace the City's Social Services Directory

At the May 14, 2015 meeting, it was recommended to explore options about the Directory of Social Services to ensure individuals have access to the most current information when referrals are being sought. A sub-committee was formed to discuss different options. Due to the time and staffing needed to implement and maintain an interactive directory, the sub-committee recommended working more closely with Ventura County 2-1-1 to replace the Social Services Directory.

Tanya Kellam, Ventura County 2-1-1 Director from Interface Children and Family Services provided a brief outline of Ventura County 2-1-1 program. She stated that individuals are able to receive up to date referrals for health and human services 24 hours a day by phone and through the internet. Enhancements and feature upgrades are being conducted to the 2-1-1 Ventura County Resource Database to make the search features easier to navigate. Once the database is upgraded it would benefit to have workgroups to test the changes and provide feedback about the system. Ms. Kellman stated the biggest gap in services is to educate the community about 2-1-1 and to encourage eligible organizations to become a member of the database. The Task Force mentioned that it would be beneficial to have a guided search included to allow grouped categories for multiple searches.

A motion was made by Don Diamond and seconded by John Turner to strengthen the partnership with Ventura County 2-1-1 and provide updated handouts to the public for references. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Task Force Member Comments

James Powers asked if there is a tracking system to identify how many homeless individuals do not want assistance. Betty Eskey stated that there is a small portion of individuals who do not want services. However, efforts with street outreach have caused some individuals who previously didn't want services to engage into services. Currently, the Center has a waiting list of approximately 50 people who are seeking services.

Reneé Frumkin stated that the Dinner Site Program provides meals to 365 days a year to anyone in need. Also, every Thursday Still Waters Cafe provides dinner. Colleen Abbinanti stated that she was formally homeless and the Dinner Site Program is an effective program for all individuals who need of a meal.

Betty Eskey acknowledged and congratulated Reneé Frumkin for her recent employment opportunity with Ventura County Behavior Health. She has been very dedicated and diligent in serving the community and will be greatly missed.

Council Member Mashburn responded to the recent protest against the abatement of the illegal homeless encampments. He stated that the City is here to assist homeless individuals and found the recent protest against the abatement of the illegal homeless encampments offensive.

Council Member Judge requested to have the five recommendations mentioned in the Ventura County 2015 Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey discussed at the next Taskforce meeting. By the consensus of the Taskforce the item will be scheduled for discussion at the August 13, 2015 meeting.

8. Task Force Coordinator's Report

Jennifer Santos announced that June-Marie von Oskinski is the City's 2015 Volunteer of the Year. She has contributed countless hours and energy to serving the community and supported a variety of City programs, including serving on the Council On Aging, Homelessness Taskforce, Neighborhood Council, and serves as a volunteer at the Simi Valley Public Library.

9. Adjournment: Thursday, August 13, 2015, 3:30 p.m.

Organization	Representative	Attendance P = Present; A = Absent
Area Housing Authority	Doug Tapking	A
Chamber of Commerce	John Tolson	P
City Council	Council Member Mike Judge	P
City Council	Council Member Keith Mashburn	P
Council On Aging	June-Marie von Osinski	P
County of Ventura Behavioral Health Department	Bob Gross	P
County of Ventura Homeless Services	Karol Schulkin	A
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Latrell Herbert	A
County of Ventura Public Health Department	Michele Surber	A
County of Ventura Supervisor Peter Foy's Office	Brian Miller	P
Dinner Site	Toni Freeland	P
Faith Community	Kurt Fredrickson	A
Faith Community	Andy Mattick	A
Free Clinic of Simi Valley	Fred Bauermeister	P
Lutheran Social Services	Amanda Brian	P
Many Mansions	Alex Russell	P
Neighborhood Council # 1	Don Diamond	P
Neighborhood Council # 2	Jonathan Perez	P
Neighborhood Council # 3	Avery West	P
Neighborhood Council # 4	Bob Powers	P
PADS	Reneé Frumkin	P
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Theresa Pennington	P
Representative who has Experienced Homelessness	Colleen Abbinanti	P
Rotary Club of Simi Valley	Joe Lansden	A
Salvation Army	Mary Flandez	P
Samaritan Center	Betty Eskey	P
Simi Valley Hospital	Carla Orieta	P
Simi Valley Police Department	Steve Shorts	P
Simi Valley Unified School District	Bill Daniels	P
State Senator or Assemblyman	Marie Lakin	P
Youth Council	Nick Steinwender	A

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY • MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 6, 2015

TO: Task Force on Homelessness

FROM: Sommer Barwick, Director of Community Services

SUBJECT: Discussion of Proposed Changes to Transit Fares and Senior Service Age

This item is being presented to provide information on potential changes to the fare and service provisions for Simi Valley Transit and to solicit community input. The following description of the alternatives to address fare recovery rates were developed with the assistance of a consultant prepared cost/revenue and market study.

Issue

As a result of state legislative changes, the City of Simi Valley is now required to recover 20% of fixed route expenses, and 10% of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit/Dial-a-Ride (DAR) expenses through fare revenue. The consequence of not meeting these mandates is a loss of transportation funding, which could impact current service levels. Currently, these mandates are not being met (Table 1). The last increase to Transit fares was made in 2003. A public hearing is tentatively planned for October 19, 2015, for the City Council to consider adjustments to fares and senior service age.

Table 1 – State Mandated Fare Box Recovery Ratios

	State Mandate	Estimate Simi Valley	Difference
Fixed-Route	20%	12.1%	7.9%
ADA/DAR	10%	2.7%	7.3%

Senior Service Age

Most Transit agencies in Ventura County have a senior eligibility age of 65, as does the new East County Transit Alliance (ECTA) InterCity Connect travel (Table 2). Simi Valley currently has an eligibility age of 60. Riders must be seniors or ADA to receive DAR services. It is proposed that the eligibility age for senior riders be increased to 65, to provide consistency with other area transit agencies, and reduce confusion for riders, while creating greater reliability of access to public transportation for seniors, and assist in balancing out the supply and demand capacity issues in the ADA/DAR services.

Table 2 - Definition of a Senior in Ventura County Transit Agencies

Agency	Senior Eligibility Age
ECTA InterCity	65
Gold Coast Transit	65
County of Ventura	65
VCTC InterCity	65
Oxnard Harbor DAR	65
City of Thousand Oaks	65
Ojai Transit	65
City of Moorpark	65
City of Simi Valley – Current	60
City of Simi Valley – Proposed	65
City of Camarillo	55

Staff is preparing recommendations to the City Council that include the following:

1. Maintain existing senior service age of 60;
2. Increase senior age requirement to 65 for all DAR and fixed-route riders;
3. Increase senior age requirement to 65 for DAR and fixed-route riders, however allow existing registered DAR seniors under the age of 65 to maintain their eligibility;
4. Provide other recommendations to the City Council.

IntraCity ADA/DAR Fares

The demand for ADA/DAR service is currently higher than the level of available service. For ADA/DAR services, as more passengers use the service, the City’s expenses increase making the fare recovery from all riders critical to maintain recovery requirements. Based on the cost/revenue and market studies, it is proposed to increase the IntraCity ADA fare from \$1.50, and the IntraCity senior fare from donation only, to \$2.00 for all riders. This provides consistency for all riders, and is comparable with other local agencies (Table 3), creating ease of use for riders on a regional basis. No changes are recommended for the InterCity fare.

Table 3 - ADA/DAR Fare Comparisons

Agency	IntraCity Fare	InterCity Fare
City of Camarillo	\$1.50	\$5.00 (CAT destinations)
City of Moorpark	\$2.00	\$5.00 (all ECTA destinations)
Gold Coast Transit	\$3.00	\$3.00 (GCTD destinations)
City of Thousand Oaks	\$3.00	\$5.00 (all ECTA destinations)
City of Simi Valley – Current	\$1.50	\$5.00 (all ECTA destinations)
City of Simi Valley - Proposed	\$2.00	\$5.00 (all ECTA destinations)

Staff is preparing recommendations to the City Council that include the following:

1. Maintain current ADA fare of \$1.50;
2. Maintain donation-only fare for seniors;
3. Increase ADA/DAR fare to \$2.00;
4. Increase ADA/DAR fare to \$3.00, consistent with Gold Coast Transit and the City of Thousand Oaks;
5. Restrict Dial-a-Ride to Americans with Disabilities Act eligible riders, eliminating the Senior Dial-A-Ride component of the program;
6. Provide other recommendations to the City Council.

Fixed Route Fares

The more passengers that use the fixed-route service, the lower the City’s per passenger cost will be. Thus, increasing ridership will assist with maintaining the bulk pass and senior/disabled subsidies and fare box recoveries. Based on the cost/revenue analysis and a review of other local agency fares (Table 3), it is proposed to increase the adult/student fare from \$1.25 to \$1.50. Based on the market analysis, the senior/disabled fare from \$0.50 to \$0.75.

Table 4 – Fixed Route Fare Comparisons

Agency	Regular Fare
City of Camarillo	\$1.00
City of Moorpark	\$1.00
Oak Park	\$1.00
VCTC VISTA	\$1.25
City of Thousand Oaks	\$1.50
Gold Coast Transit	\$1.50
City of Simi Valley – Current	\$1.25
City of Simi Valley - Proposed	\$1.50

Staff is preparing recommendations to the City Council that include the following:

1. Maintain existing fares of \$0.50 and \$1.25;
2. Increase fixed-route adult/student fare to \$1.50;
3. Increase the senior/disabled fare to \$0.75;
4. Provide other recommendations to the City Council.

Staff is soliciting input on the proposed recommendations and welcomes any additional recommendations that may come up during the discussion.

Summary

Simi Valley Transit last revised fares in 2003. Due to changes in state legislation, the City is now required to recover a 20% portion of fixed route expenses through fare revenue, and 10% of ADA Paratransit/DAR expenses through fare revenue. These requirements are currently not being met. The proposed fare and senior eligibility changes will allow Simi Valley Transit to provide comparable services and fares, creating consistency and ease of use for riders on a regional basis, and further the City's ability to meet mandated fare box recovery ratios.