



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, May 10, 2018

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. Overview of the Results of the 2018 Ventura County Homeless Count and Survey
 - b. Overview of the Simi Valley Police Department's Upcoming Business Forum to Address Vagrancy Issues
6. New Business
 - a. Discussion of Establishing a Temporary Use Permit Program to Assist in Addressing Vagrancy Issues
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, August 9, 2018, 3:30 p.m.

/s/

Sommer Barwick
Community Services Director

If any interested individual has a disability that may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Jennifer Santos at (805) 583-6759. Upon advance notification, reasonable arrangements will be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Council Member Mike Judge called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and Jennifer Santos, Management Analyst, noted that a quorum was present. Attendance details are available on the last page of the minutes.

2. Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Fred Bauermeister and seconded by Bill Daniels to approve the November 9, 2017 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Statements/Comments

Martha Montesinos from the Ventura County Behavioral Health's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program (also known as "Laura's Law") provided an overview about its available services. She stated that Ventura County Behavioral Health and Telecare Corporation partnered together to provide AOT, which offers outpatient mental health services intended for adults who are suffering from serious mental illness and are reluctant to accept needed treatment. The program helps to promote wellness and recovery in the least restrictive environment and reduce the cycle of hospitalizations and incarcerations.

John Bagnell from United States Representative Steve Knight's office introduced himself and stated that he would be available after the meeting to answer any questions.

5. Informational Presentations

a. Status Update on the Homeless Encampments Abatement Program

Sergeant Steve Shorts from the City of Simi Valley Police Department and Ranger Jim Rosales from Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD) provided an overview about the recent efforts made to clean-up vacant properties that consisted of illegal homeless encampments. Successful efforts were achieved through the continued partnership and collaboration between property owners, government, and service agencies. These efforts begin when property owners work with law enforcement agencies to obtain a letter of agency to authorize law

enforcement to begin the abatement process to address illegal camping and issues related to vagrancy. A few examples included a large vacant parcel located directly east of Madera Road and north of West Easy Street. This property had a long history with trespassing and illegal encampments. After providing notice, the property was cleared of the encampments and many trees and vegetation were trimmed to proactively reduce future occurrences. Another affected area was Alamos Canyon, located near the Ventura County Oak Park Campground. The property was cleared to prepare for grading improvements to establish a new hiking trail system by RSRPD. Additionally, Sergeant Shorts stated that Police personnel meets with other law enforcement and service agencies throughout Ventura County on a regular basis to assist homeless residents and to address issues associated with vagrancy and illegal homeless activities.

b. Overview of the Upcoming 2018 Homeless Point-In-Time Count

Betty Eskey, Executive Director for The Samaritan Center, stated that the 2018 Homeless Point-In-Time Count (Count) was rescheduled to February 22, 2018, due to the Thomas Fire. The Count provides a snapshot of data of one night of homelessness in Ventura County. This year, a mobile application was used to conduct the surveys. The application has a Global Positioning System that identifies exact locations of each survey interaction. The annual Count helps Ventura County continue to meet the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's requirements of the annual homeless census and address local funding needs. The draft report for the Count is expected to be completed by late March or early April 2018.

6. New Business

a. Update on the Status of the Previously Adopted Ventura County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and Brainstorming of Potential Actionable Goals

Ms. Santos provided an overview about the recently expired Ventura County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (10-Year Plan). She stated that various efforts have been made throughout Ventura County to reduce the incidents of homelessness, such as the development of the Pathways to Home program. The program allows subscribing service providers to be able to assist homeless residents with appropriate resources and to meet client needs anywhere throughout Ventura County.

To continue these efforts the Ventura County Continuum of Care will conduct a coordinated effort to develop a new strategy and partner with each community to identify the unique needs and resources. The Simi

Valley City Council also adopted goals related to the previous 10-Year Plan. Ms. Santos stated that opportunities are available to solicit feedback about identifying actionable goals to further the efforts of reducing homelessness in Simi Valley.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, it was the consensus of the Task Force to reschedule the discussion of potential actionable goals to a later date to coincide with the efforts of the Ventura County Continuum of Care.

- b. Discussion of Establishing a Referral Network to the Home Rehabilitation Program to Maximize Access to Homeowners with Homeless Prevention

Cynthia Sabatini, Senior Planner from the Environmental Services Department, provided an overview about the City's Home Rehabilitation program that has been in place since 1981. The program provides opportunities for homeowners to address health and safety related repairs on their single-family homes by offering two percent deferred interest loans of up to \$50,000. There are no monthly payments and full repayment is required when the property is sold, refinanced, or leased, or when the property changes title.

Ms. Santos stated that occasionally staff has assisted applicants who were at risk of homelessness and that it would be beneficial to create a referral network and provide a pamphlet to encourage participation among those eligible.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, it was the consensus of the Task Force to have staff provide information to partnering agencies and for those agencies to refer potential participants to the program.

7. Task Force Member Comments

Betty Eskey reported that The Samaritan Center would be partnering with Pacific Dental Services Foundation and Smile Generation dental care volunteers to offer free dental services on Saturday, February 24, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will be located at The Samaritan Center, 280 Royal Avenue. Approximately 70 clients have signed up and there will be 40 volunteers and 10 dentists and dental hygienists available to provide services.

Council Member Mashburn stated that industrial businesses have had increased costs to hire security and get assistance from their waste haulers to address vagrancy issues.

Marissa Mach stated that the impacts of the Thomas Fire have significantly impacted the County's residential vacancy rate and the Ventura County Human

Services Agency's Homeless Services Division (Division). The Division consists of eight team members who have dedicated their time during the past months to assist displaced residents impacted by the fire while working to assist residents facing homelessness.

Council Member Judge stated that the City of Los Angeles installed parking meters to provide alternative options for individuals to give money rather than to panhandlers. The parking meters help to fund homeless service programs, which might be an option to add to the new 10-Year Plan.

8. Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report: None
9. Adjournment: Thursday, May 10, 2018, 3:30 p.m.


The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Organization	Representative	Attendance
Area Housing Authority	Linda Fisher-Helton	P
Chamber of Commerce	Rana Ghadban	A
City Council	Council Member Mike Judge	P
City Council	Council Member Keith Mashburn	P
Ventura County Health Care Agency	Michele Surber	P
Ventura County Human Services Agency	Marissa Mach	P*
Ventura County Supervisor Peter Foy's Office	Brian Miller	P
Resource Coordination Representative	Fred Bauermeister Free Clinic of Simi Valley	P
Resource Coordination Representative	Betty Eskey The Samaritan Center	P
Resource Coordination Representative	None	-
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Jim Rosales	P
Simi Valley Unified School District	Trustee Bill Daniels	P
State Senator or Assembly Member	Taylor Criddle	A
Attendance Key: P = Present A = Absent * = Arrived after Approval of the Minutes		

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY • MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 3, 2018

TO: Task Force on Homelessness

FROM: Ted Drago, Environmental Services Director (Interim) 

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY USE PERMIT PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN ADDRESSING VAGRANCY ISSUES

City staff from the Environmental Services, Community Services, and Police Departments regularly work with property owners to address issues of vagrancy. The majority of remedies tend to be related to actions and improvements that can be taken by property owners to reduce the overall attractiveness of their properties for vagrant activities through the City's development process.

However, staff recognizes that the current options are limited due to cost, properties not being ready to be developed to their highest and best use, and/or other economic factors facing local businesses. As a result, staff is soliciting input on establishing a Temporary Use Permit program to assist in addressing issues of vagrancy. The goal of the program would be to enhance partnerships between the City and property owners through further investment and improvement of properties that are experiencing vagrancy.

The following areas have been identified as recurring obstacles for property owners of vacant parcels and select occupied properties. A reprieve in typical development standards may make the investment in additional infrastructure and amenities more palatable to property owners. It is anticipated that this would not only positively contribute to the subject property but also to the surrounding community.

Potential development requirements to be modified:

- Landscaping and tree removal requirements;
- Fencing standards (allowing for different materials, locked gates, etc.);
- Lighting standards;
- Ability to block path of travel; and
- Provide for alternative temporary uses for vacant parcels (ie. vehicle, material, and equipment storage).

Additionally, through the discussions with property owners, Planning Division staff will be able to identify potential rezoning opportunities based on permanent barriers to development.

Should there be support for any of the above or additional modifications to the City's development requirements, it is recommended that a process to identify eligible properties be established through review by the Police Department and Code Enforcement staff to ensure that there is an overall community benefit.