

**CITY OF ANAHEIM**  
**HOMELESS POLICY WORKING GROUP**

**MINUTES**  
**September 8, 2017**

Agenda Posting: A complete copy of the Homeless Policy Working Group Agenda was posted on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at Anaheim City Hall and at the Anaheim West Tower.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 8, 2017 at the Gordon Hoyt Conference Room, Anaheim West Tower, 201 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, California.

1. Natalie Wieckert, County of Orange
2. Mike Robbins, People's Taskforce
3. Eve Garrow, ACLU
4. Linda Lehnkering, Poverty Taskforce
5. Chief Raul Quezada in Eric Carter's place, City of Anaheim
6. Matt Bates, CityNet
7. Mayor Pro Tem James Vanderbilt, City of Anaheim
8. Council Member Jose Moreno, City of Anaheim
9. Council Member Denise Barnes, City of Anaheim
10. Jesse Ben-Ron, State Assembly
11. Norma Campos Kurtz, State Assembly
12. Sebastian Calderon, State Senate
13. Nancy Wells, Visit Anaheim
14. Esther Wallace, West Anaheim Development Council

The following staff members were present:

Kristine Ridge, Assistant City Manager

Jackie Rodarte, Policy Aide to Council Member Moreno

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were open for two minutes.

Wes Jones talked about a District 5 meeting where there were many angry residents. Jones mentioned his hopes for bringing the homeowners and the homeless advocates to the same side.

Bob Cerince commented about the context for understanding homelessness, proven solutions, and best practices to address homelessness. Cerince stated that the context is that many believe that homelessness is problem for individuals who have moral issues or behavioral issues and that it can be solved by addressing those bad moral decisions. Cerince stated that people miss the structural causes of homelessness, such as the

shortage of affordable housing, low incomes, and limited supply of health services. Cerince stated that there is now a shift from transitional housing as a solution to permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing.

Chair Moreno asked Cerince to forward the Working Group any resources he had in relation to the information he provided.

The Cameraman discussed the misconception of all homeless individuals being considered drug users. The Cameraman then suggested having safe drug drop off bins so if people do use drugs then there is somewhere proper they can dispose of drugs or needles used. The Cameraman then discussed a sheriff's department in LA County which provided these bins for safe drug drop off.

Chair Moreno then asked the Cameraman to forward the Working Group any stories or formal policies that have been done in Los Angeles that he might know about.

Lou Noble talked about the commonality between those on different sides of the homelessness problem; the commonality being that everyone wants to get people off of the streets. Noble discussed that enforcement is not the answer. Noble then discussed how those who go to help the homeless give hope. Noble finished by saying that sanitation is a human right.

Brian Kaye discussed interactions with a police officer that led him to be homeless.

Chair Moreno then reminded everyone of the Working Group's purpose and objectives.

Chair Moreno moved to the next item on the agenda.

### III. STATE, COUNTY AND CITY HOMELESS EFFORTS PANEL

Chair Moreno introduced the panelists.

Kristine Ridge, Assistant City Manager, City of Anaheim  
Grace Stepter, Housing Authority, City of Anaheim  
Susan Price, Director of Care Coordination, County of Orange  
Tony Cardenas, League of California Cities

Chair Moreno asked Kristine Ridge and Grace Stepter to begin by discussing what the City has in place or what the City should be considering in regards to homelessness.

Kristine Ridge discussed how she has had oversight over many of the homeless programs in the City for about 4 years. Ridge then discussed CityNet as a pilot program that has turned into a successful multi-year agreement. Ridge discussed her work with the county and getting the first year-round shelter open. Ridge then mentioned how almost every City department plays a role in addressing homelessness, especially the Police Department who has many programs for homelessness, the Community Services Department that oversees the check-in center at La Palma Park and oversees the CityNet

contract, the Planning Department deals with code enforcement and abandoned property, Fire Department responds to an average of 1,000 calls a year to provide service to those who are homeless, and Public Works who must fix damaged property. Ridge also discussed a job program that is currently being developed, Love Anaheim.

Grace Stepter discussed that she is representing the Community Development Department. Stepter explained that they run the Housing Authority and have a housing program, but they are also the administrator of federal entitlement programs, emergency solutions grant, a home partnerships act, community development block grant division; all infrastructure programs. Stepter then highlighted the creative programs that have been supported: permanent supportive housing projects, shelters, 2-1-1, Anaheim specific homeless count, work with other cities, Home Program, and Section 8 voucher program. Stepter discussed how many of these projects take time and while many might think not enough is being done, there are many projects in place to solve these difficult issues.

Chair Moreno followed-up on Stepter's fact of 80 families being helped by the HAP Pilot Program, by asking over what time period.

Stepter answered by saying since 2014.

Chair Moreno then asked, about how many schoolchildren are estimated to be in an unstable housing condition.

Stepter said she did not have that number, but from the households that come into the HAP Program, there were over 300 children in those households.

Chair Moreno then referenced the McKinney Vento Program and how in the high school district there are over 4,000 in an unstable housing condition.

Stepter responded by saying there is a distinction between those who are counted in regards to those who are chronically homeless, therefore the school district might count those who are couch surfing but housing programs would not.

Susan Price thanked the Working Group for having her and then began to discuss the assessment report, the status of those items, the current climate, and what is currently being done. Price began by discussing her position and the goal of better connecting county services. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and coordinated entry were mentioned as two important aspects of the continuum of care. Price then discussed service planning areas as something that is a new concept in the county and which is being looked into. Price mentioned the importance of meeting the needs of families as well as the individuals. Price then commented that as shelters are created it is only transitional and what is really needed is a system of care that moves. Price then said that those who make up the homeless population are diverse and each have their own unique needs. Price also mentioned how she has heard comments about homeless who do not want help and said that maybe they are just pre-contemplative, meaning that they are not ready and possibly need hope or something else for them to believe they could not be

homeless anymore. Price tried to sum up her pathway out of homelessness; she mentioned the need to expand “the toolbox” such as through motel vouchers, and homeward bound, addressing the correctional reform, and using local resources to address local needs. Price then discussed HMIS that this system will ensure that all resources are utilized.

Chief Quezada asked Price for a copy of her report and commented on Price going to the taskforce meetings.

Chair Moreno then proceeded to Cardenas and asked him to discuss pending or contemplated legislation as well as the state perspective on how homelessness needs to be looked at by the City.

Tony Cardenas said that since 2005 city financial resources have been cut by 50-77% on affordable housing, which has a direct impact on homelessness. Cardenas said what they have been doing is fighting for financial resources and that has been the focus. Cardenas then pointed to Prop. 47 as a factor contributing to the epidemic of homelessness. Cardenas mentioned the Senate’s commitment to affordable housing; SB 3 which would be 4 billion dollars in bonds, SB 2 which would add a recordation fee to certain real estate transactions, SB 35 which would make local authority ministerial and give more power to the states; SB 35 is opposed by the League of Cities.

Norma Kurtz asked how much funding is received for the Section 8 voucher program.

Stepter said they receive 64 million dollars and it is enough to support 6,300 families but it actually goes to assist 6,000 families; as the rates go up in Anaheim families pay their share and the voucher makes up the difference.

Matt Bates asked the county if there are resources at the county that are being held up in order to get clarity for when public comments are made about those funds.

Price answered by saying that she believes people are referring to is mental health services act dollars and that she has heard those comments recently. Price said that she went to the Mental Health Board and received information on their budget. Price said that in the last year she does know that they have increased their allocation in response to public comment. Price then said if people want to learn more she recommends they go to the mental health taskforce meetings

Mike Robbins asked Price about what she thought the price of implementing housing first would be.

Price answered by saying that she hasn’t done a cost analysis to determine what the cost would be to integrate that into Orange County.

Cardenas was asked about Prop.47 and if crime has increased and has the population increased due to Prop.47. Cardenas said that he did not have those numbers but that he has heard Prop.47 has a local impact to cities.

Eve Garrow asked the county a question about where the funding is going to come from to pay for such solutions as housing first or does the county imagine that the cities will commit the funding.

Price answered by saying it is such a complicated issue and that there is not one source of funding used to build all of these projects. Price mentioned mental health services dollars are being used, but that is not all of the population and that the County does not have all the money.

Chair Moreno then clarified by saying there is a lot of money being used by the County but they are categorical dollars from state and federal, is it fair to say that the County out of its own general fund doesn't have resources being spent directly on permanent affordable housing.

Price said she didn't know the source of the 8 million dollars to which sources put together for the RFP.

Chair Moreno asked how much does the private sector invest.

Price answered by saying she didn't have a specific number but she can say that there is a lot of work that can be done there.

Council Member Vanderbilt asked if the panelists would be present during agenda item 5, or if he should ask those questions now in regards to that item.

Chair Moreno said it would be better to ask now.

Council Member Vanderbilt discussed the State of Emergency agenda item that will be discussed at the next City Council meeting. Council Member Vanderbilt said there are clauses that include partnerships with the County and wants to know if those conversations have begun with the County and City in regards to the State of Emergency.

Ridge said that the State of Emergency is hot off the presses but she has sent it to Price, CityNet, and the County to discuss future collaboration.

Chair Moreno asked if Price wanted to speak on any of the elements of the State of Emergency.

Price said she does not know anything specific but she can speak to what is being done by the County, such as the allocation of 750,000 to start to address the crisis on the flood control channels.

Council Member Barnes asked if she could be given an opinion on housing, such as tiny houses, mobile homes, or dorm type of housing and if any of those would be a fit in any of the situations for temporary housing or even as permanent housing.

Price said it is up to the jurisdiction and as to what they are ready and interested in implementing.

Stepter said that space also needs to be taken into account in regards to costs and space rights. Stepter also mentioned having to make sure there are ADA compliant units.

Chair Moreno discussed Price's report and pointed out various aspects such as the living wage. Chair Moreno then asked what this Working Group should consider when developing policies.

Price said that policies should be sustainable and a focus needs to remain on the solutions. Price mentioned that the employment piece is very important. Price then said you can have great ideas but the constituency also needs to be on board in order to achieve any goals.

Chair Moreno asked if the City of Anaheim has been approached as a site for crisis stabilization units.

Price said not that she is aware of.

Chair Moreno asked for any other answers to his question on what to consider when developing policies.

Stepter said the social support services piece is very critical.

Ridge said she concurs with what Price and Stepter said and she encourages that policies take into account all stakeholders.

Cardenas said to get the word out and not to fall into any NIMBY notions. Cardenas said affordable housing and homelessness are priorities for the state.

Chair Moreno then asked if we can arrest our way out of this problem.

Price said absolutely not.

Chair Moreno then asked if enforcement is a key component.

Price said it's a component but it's not a solution and she would prefer to lead with a clinical outreach team.

Chair Moreno thanked the panel and asked if he could send any draft recommendations to the panelists for their input.

Chair Moreno moved to the next agenda item.

IV. END HOMELESSNESS THE ANAHEIM WAY PRESENTATION

This item got carried to the September 22 Homeless Policy Working Group meeting due to lack of time. Chair Moreno moved to the next agenda item.

V. STATE OF EMERGENCY SCHEDULED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ON SEPTEMBER 12

Chair Moreno asked if there were any questions on the State of Emergency proposal.

Chair Moreno asked Ridge to brief the Working Group on what the proposal consists of.

Ridge said that Council Member Murray asked for a State of Emergency with a resolution which declares public health and safety state of emergency related to homeless, homelessness, and homeless encampments within and adjacent to City property, and empowering city staff to take immediate action to provide shelter and services in conjunction with neighboring jurisdictions and provide the necessary enforcement in the Santa An Riverbed, city parks, and on city-owned property.

Chair Moreno asked if anyone on the Working Group had been briefed on the proposal.

Chair Moreno then asked if anyone had any other comments or questions.

Robbins said that Prop.47 was mentioned by the panelists and he discussed the criminal narrative given to the homeless.

Chair Moreno said his reaction to that is, let's stay focused.

Chair Moreno moved to the next item on the agenda.

VI. WORKING GROUP MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Garrow said she was concerned about the fact that the Working Group would be making recommendations soon and why is it that the State of Emergency is being done now.

Chief Quezada agreed with the statement of not being able to enforce our way out of this but that enforcement is a part of the process. Chief Quezada then said that there is a proposal coming soon about increasing resources. Chief Quezada then gave updates on various actions being taken by APD.

Council Member Vanderbilt reflected on all the work that needs to be done and the reality of Bridges being a successful project, therefore proving that many government improvements have been effective. Council Member Vanderbilt then thanked everyone who is involved.

Council Member Barnes said that she believes that the Working Group is doing great work in communicating to the community and those around us as to what is going on. Council Member Barnes then encouraged everyone to read Price's assessment.

Chair Moreno thanked the panelists.

VII. ADJOURNAMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m. to Friday, September 22, at 8:30 a.m. at the Anaheim West Tower.