

HOMELESS POLICY WORKING GROUP

November 2017

Report

HOMELESS POLICY WORKING GROUP

MEMBERS

Mayor Pro Tem James Vanderbilt, City of Anaheim

Council Member Denise Barnes, City of Anaheim

Council Member Jose F. Moreno, City of Anaheim

Matt Bates, City Net

Jesse Ben-Ron, State Assembly

Jay Burrell, Visit Anaheim

Sebastian Calderon, State Senate

Captain Eric Carter, City of Anaheim

Eve Garrow, American Civil Liberties Union

Norma Campos Kurtz, State Assembly

Linda Lehnkering, Anaheim Poverty Task Force

Mike Robbins, The People's Homeless Task Force

Kevin Sorkin, District 5 Resident

Esther Wallace, West Anaheim Development Council

Natalie Wieckert, Supervisor Shawn Nelson's Office, County of Orange

Homeless Policy Working Group

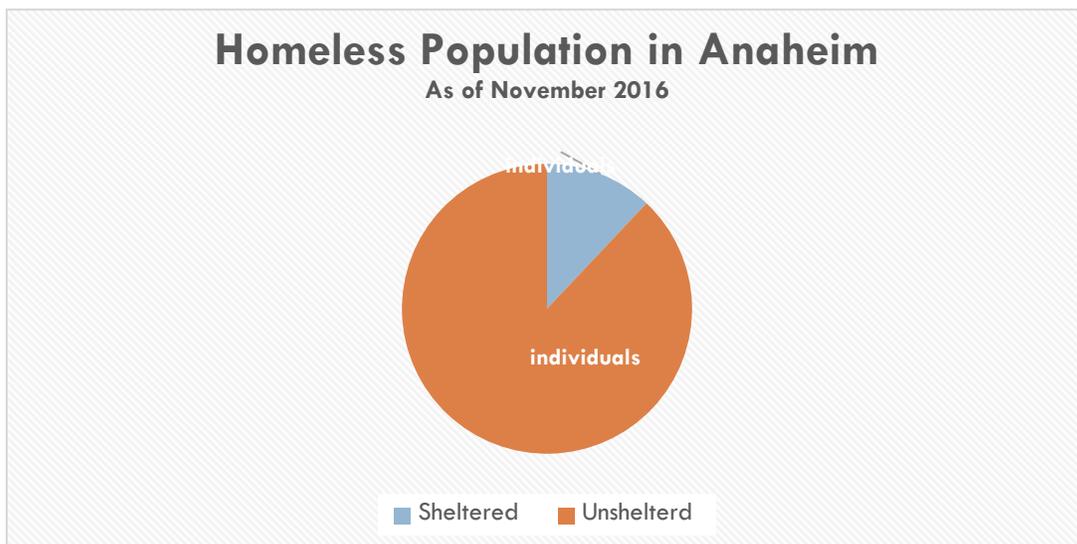
REPORT

HOMELESS IN ANAHEIM

Homelessness is a problem that many major cities are dealing with across the nation and the City of Anaheim is amongst those cities attempting to address its homeless population. Two major groups who are often identified in regards to the homeless population are those who are sheltered and those who are unsheltered. In the City of Anaheim, there are various differences seen between those two groups.

As of November 2016, these differences were made clearer due to the *Anaheim Homeless Census* that was conducted by City Net, under contract with the City of Anaheim. The purpose of the census was to identify a baseline number of individuals living without housing, to determine the demographic, asset, and other special characteristics of individuals without housing, and to assess shelter resources by understanding the differences, if any, between those who are sheltered and those who are unsheltered.

The census not only allowed for a better understanding of Anaheim's homeless population, but also allowed for the first large-scale comprehensive homeless census in the City of Anaheim. The census identified 906 homeless individuals in the City with 88% of those individuals being unsheltered. Of those individuals who were found to be unsheltered, 71% were identified as men.



For many homeless in Anaheim, the most common amount of time spent homeless is 1 to 2 years, but when comparing those who are sheltered to those who are unsheltered, there is a large discrepancy. Unsheltered individuals have spent significantly more time homeless than individuals who are sheltered. More sheltered individuals were also found to have disabilities and mental health concerns, while more

unsheltered individuals were found to be struggling with substance abuse issues. Unsheltered individuals are also more likely to utilize emergency mental health services, specifically with calls to Anaheim's Psychological Emergency Response Team (PERT). PERT handles more than 1,000 contacts a year, for unsheltered homeless individuals. PERT is comprised of two Anaheim Police Officers who are paired with an Orange County Medical Health Clinician to respond to emergency incidents in the field involving individuals in crisis wherein the individual's mental condition is preventing him or her from escaping the cycle of homelessness.

A key finding from the census was made in regards to homeless individuals and their assets. Of the unsheltered respondents who were identified in the census, 34% had some form of income, while 78% of sheltered respondents had some form of income. Sheltered individuals were found to have more monetary assets such as, income, CalFresh, and insurance, in comparison to those who were unsheltered, with sheltered individuals receiving more than twice the rate of monthly income than those who were unsheltered. Sheltered individuals were also more likely to have attained a higher education, with 53% of sheltered individuals having received a college or post-secondary vocational education.

In regards to ethnicity, individuals who identified as "White" or "Black" were found to be experiencing homelessness at disproportionate rates. Those who identify as "White" make up 58% of the unsheltered population, but only make up 27% of the ethnic identities in the larger Anaheim population. Those who identify as "Black" make up 10% of the unsheltered population, but only make up 2% of the ethnic identities in Anaheim.

Homeless veterans also make up a significant portion of those who are unsheltered in Anaheim. While they comprise 4% of the homeless population in Anaheim, they are 10% of the unsheltered homeless populations, meaning they are twice as likely to be unsheltered as opposed to sheltered.

Some initiatives that the City has taken to address this population include outreach, increasing access to services, city support for a year-round shelter, affordable housing, and enforcement. The City has led the Anaheim Homeless Collaborative, a group of more than 100 non-profits, faith based groups and government agencies, working to assist homeless individuals by providing access to housing, healthcare and other services.

In 2015, the City of Anaheim established the Homeless Assistance Pilot Program (HAPP) and more recently, launched the Chronically Homeless Individuals Pilot Program (CHIPP). Both programs provide rental assistance and support services, such as case management, medical care, mental health and workforce services, for Anaheim residents in the condition of homelessness. HAPP is specifically for homeless families with children in Anaheim schools whereas CHIPP is more expansive and focuses on individuals that are not eligible for the County's Permanent Supportive Housing Program. The service provider for both programs is the Illumination Foundation. In July 2017, the City opened the Anaheim Service Center on Anaheim Boulevard. This is the location where the Illumination Foundation runs both programs.

With rent-voucher assistance from the City's Housing Authority, there are multiple affordable housing communities in Anaheim. The City is very innovative by collaborating with stakeholders in order to integrate services that benefit residents in these communities. The most recent example is the City's

Homeless Policy Working Group

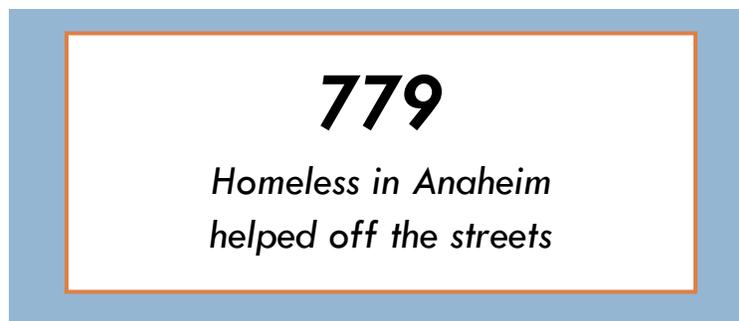
partnership with Jamboree Housing and Innovative Housing Opportunities to open Rockwood Apartments. Built in 2016, this 70-apartment development provides housing to low-income families, homeless families and homeless individuals who have a mental illness. Amenities at this site include a community garden, computer lab, laundry rooms, outdoor barbecue area, recreation rooms, teaching kitchen, and wireless internet access. Residents living at Rockwood not only have permanent housing, but also have access to services such as tutoring and homework assistance, health and wellness programs, as well as financial literacy and career development. It is important to note that Jamboree Housing has four additional affordable housing sites in Anaheim.

The City of Anaheim is also the host city and provided \$500,000 in funding for Orange County's first year-round homeless shelter, Bridges at Kraemer Place. The converted industrial building, which opened in 2017, currently offers 100 beds, but is expected to increase to 200 beds. Services offered include access to medical and mental health services, long-term housing placement, and job and life skills training. The shelter serves homeless men and women with a priority for those living in the following cities: Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra, Orange, Placentia, and Yorba Linda. The operator of the shelter is Mercy House. In addition to their work at Bridges at Kraemer Place, Mercy House also operates the La Palma Check-In Center at La Palma Park. At this location, homeless residents are able to store their personal property and access support services.

The Anaheim Police Department (APD) plays an integral part in outreach, with the APD working with City Net to form Homeless Outreach Teams who conduct weekly outreach sessions at parks, the Santa Ana River Trail, freeway onramps and other places to help those who are homeless find housing and support services. The APD also works with Orange County Mental Health Services clinicians to conduct outreach to help those who are homeless find shelter beds or mental health services.

The City has also taken a part in participating in the Homeless Outreach Court to help clear outstanding infractions and minor misdemeanors for individuals who are homeless, while providing access to services and training library staff to address homeless library users.

Since January 2014, these initiatives have helped support 779 individuals experiencing homelessness to be placed in housing or reunited with family. This has also resulted in a 95% retention rate for those individuals who have been supported.



779
*Homeless in Anaheim
helped off the streets*

HOMELESS POLICY WORKING GROUP CREATION

At the April 25, 2017 council meeting, Council Member Moreno requested that staff agendize a proposal to create a Homeless Policy Working Group to focus on policies designed to aid the City's efforts with homelessness. Specifically, it was requested that stakeholders from the following organizations be invited to serve as members of this working group: City Net; Anaheim Poverty Task Force; the People's Homeless Task Force; the City of Anaheim Police Department; the County of Orange; the State Senate; the State Assembly; Visit Anaheim; and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), as well as one or more members of the City Council.

At the June 20, 2017 council meeting, staff returned to Council with a list of individuals, from the identified organizations, who had agreed to be a part of the Working Group. Each organization respectively selected its representative and Council Members were also appointed and approved. By Motion, the City Council created the Homeless Policy Working Group on June 20, 2017.

The initial working group consisted of Mayor Pro Tem Vanderbilt – City of Anaheim, Council Member Barnes – City of Anaheim, Council Member Moreno – City of Anaheim, Sebastian Calderon – State Senator Josh Newman's Office, Jesse Ben-Ron – State Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva's Office, Norma Campos Kurtz – State Assembly Member Tom Daly's Office, Natalie Wieckert – Orange County Supervisor Shawn Nelson's Office, Captain Eric Carter – City of Anaheim's Police Department, Matt Bates – City Net, Jay Burress – Visit Anaheim, Eve Garrow – ACLU, Linda Lehnkering – the Anaheim Poverty Task Force, and Mike Robbins – The People's Homeless Task Force with Kristine Ridge, Assistant City Manager, serving as city staff support.

At the July 25, 2017 council meeting, Council Member Murray requested the appointment of Esther Wallace, a West Anaheim Resident, to the existing Homeless Policy Working Group. Council Member Murray requested this appointment in order to increase the representation of residents serving on the committee. On August 15, 2017, the City Council approved the appointment.

At the August 29, 2017 council meeting, Council Member Faessel requested that a representative from District 5 be appointed to the Homeless Policy Working Group. On September 12, 2017, the City Council approved the appointment of Kevin Sorkin, a District 5 resident.

The timeline for the Working Group was set at approximately three months, where the group would be responsible for researching and evaluating new policy strategies and opportunities for Anaheim to implement in its efforts to address homelessness in the community. The goal was to report to the City Council with specific recommendations and policy considerations.

MEETINGS AND MILESTONES

July 27, 2017 – The first meeting served introductory purposes, as well as offered an orientation to the members. Each Working Group member was provided a binder with the following information: contact list, Brown Act Guide, meeting schedule and milestones, a summary of City efforts, the *City of Anaheim Homeless Census Report*, the County of Orange's Assessment, and the *County of Orange's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. The Chair of the Homeless Policy Working Group was selected, with Council Member Moreno being nominated and approved unanimously by the group. The group then reviewed the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order. Chair Moreno shared a draft purpose and objectives for the group to

Homeless Policy Working Group

review and approve at a later date. The group received an overview of the City's current approach to addressing homelessness. Working Group members would also subscribed to the County of Orange's *Office of Care Coordination Newsletter*.

August 11, 2017 – The group provided feedback in regards to the draft purpose statement and objectives. The group then had a Q&A discussion with a homeless individual who lives on the Santa Ana River Trail; and received insight into her life on the Santa Ana River Trail as well as her interactions with service providers, law enforcement, and neighbors.

August 25, 2017 – The group finalized and approved its purpose and objectives statement. The group then had a Q&A discussion with four service providers: Nathan Zug – Love Anaheim, Gigi Zanganeh – City Net, Patti Long – Mercy House, and Paul Cho – Illumination Foundation. Each panelist gave their respective recommendations as to what factors should be considered when developing policy recommendations.

Purpose Statement: Develop and recommend a policy framework, and ensuing policies, that seek to effectively and compassionately address homelessness in Anaheim.

Objectives: Via examination of current policies, public input and testimony, and review of sample promising policies the Working Group will:

- Develop a recommendation on a policy framework embedded in compassion and a spirit of kindness
- Develop policy recommendations that seek to reaffirm and/or restore balance in effectively addressing Anaheim resident and community concerns
- Develop recommendations to align city policies and resources with federal, county and state efforts for greater effectiveness and efficiency

September 5, 2017 – This was the first evening meeting which was aimed at dedicating time for solely public comment. This meeting was held in West Anaheim. The public commented on the following: public safety, public health concerns, projects to consider, discrimination of the homeless, enforcement, property concerns, among many other issues.

September 8, 2017 – The meeting centered on a Q&A panel of city, state, and county representatives who were there to discuss efforts that each entity has taken to address homelessness as well as give input on potential policy recommendations. The panelists included: Kristine Ridge – City of Anaheim, Grace Stepter – City of Anaheim's Housing Programs Manager, Susan Price - County of Orange's Director of Care Coordination, and Tony Cardenas – League of California Cities. Ridge and Stepter discussed what the City currently has in place in regards to homelessness. Price discussed her assessment report, the current climate of homelessness, and what is currently being done at the County level. Cardenas discussed pending and contemplated legislation at the state level and the state perspective on homelessness. The

group was also briefly introduced to the State of Emergency that had recently been asked for in a city council meeting by Council Member Murray.

September 22, 2017 – The group was given a presentation by Bill Taormina entitled “End Homelessness the Anaheim Way,” which aimed to include the business sector into addressing the problem of homelessness. Another presentation was also given by Kristine Ridge, which focused on informing the group of Operation Home S.A.F.E. A Q&A panel was also held to discuss the legal parameters surrounding homelessness. The panel consisted of Brooke Weitzman – Elder Law and Disability Rights Center, and Kristin Pelletier – City of Anaheim. Both panelists gave an overview of case law that is often used when addressing homelessness, with a special focus on enforcement and shelter.

September 28, 2017 – This was the second evening meeting to focus on public comments and concerns. The public commented on the following: effects to tourism, public safety, housing first model, property retrieval, the labeling of all homeless individuals as criminals, among other topics and concerns. The group also began a discussion on the policy framework they were working towards proposing. The group shared their concerns over: educating the public on homelessness, what neighboring cities are doing to address homelessness, access to smaller facilities across the City, establishing shelters, funding to address homelessness efforts, and state initiatives to address homelessness.

October 3, 2017 – This was the last evening meeting reserved for public comment. The group then continued their discussion on the policy framework. Members discussed outreach and education of the public, enforcement, police policies and procedures, emergency shelter, funding from the County, motel vouchers, criminalization of the homeless, affordable housing, mental health facilities, prevention, and health care.

October 6, 2017 – This meeting was spent discussing thoughts on what the group has learned throughout the past meetings, with recommendations on what they believed to be important to consider for any policy recommendations. Ideas brought up during the discussion were: basic sanitation and public health, confiscation of property and the enforcement of sleeping in public spaces, the Housing First Model, inclusionary zoning, affordable housing, housing in regards to zoning recommendations, and the importance of clarifying terms and categories for legal purposes and for purposes of clarity in policy, and services.

October 20, 2017 – This meeting was aimed at determining the policy recommendations that would be shared with council. This included policy cornerstones such as the need for sustainability, recognition of the citywide impact, embracement of the Housing First model and the need for emergency shelters, clear definitions and categories, and recognition of the need for collaboration with other agencies, service providers and private sector businesses. A short-term framework was also provided including: basic sanitation, a review of the Anaheim Police Department’s enforcement practices, and temporary emergency shelter. The long-term framework reviewed included: incorporating policy criteria to ensure existing or amended municipal codes do not burden those who are homeless or surrounding neighborhoods, ensuring that the fiscal year budget can adequately fund homeless services provided, and supporting planning and zoning changes to prioritize the development of affordable housing. Since the Working Group added more policy recommendations, the group decided to convene another meeting to allow additional time to review potential policy recommendations as outlined.

November 3, 2017 – The meeting aimed to discuss and approve the final policy recommendations that would be presented to the City Council. Similar to a consent calendar, Working Group members had the opportunity to pull items for discussion. The policy cornerstones reviewed previously remained the same, but the short-term framework and long-term framework had several changes. The short-term framework included: formally reaching out to the County of Orange through a resolution; support efforts for basic sanitation; a review of the Anaheim Police Department’s enforcement practices, and support temporary, year-round emergency shelters. The long-term framework included the following: the City develop a sustained funding stream to fund a Housing First model; explore and evaluate affordable housing efforts and/or policies for extremely low-income and low-income households; incentivize the use of City-owned land for housing; incorporate policy criteria to ensure existing or amended municipal codes do not burden those who are homeless or surrounding neighborhoods; ensure that the fiscal year budget adequately funds homeless services; and support planning and zoning changes to prioritize the development of affordable housing. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was stated that a report would be compiled with the policy recommendations for their approval prior to presenting the information to the City Council.

Homeless Policy Working Group recommends a Housing First Model as a foundation with the interim need for a form of emergency shelter.

OUTREACH

Extensive outreach was conducted utilizing city communications, including press releases that were distributed to the public as to when meetings were being held. Additionally, social media including, Facebook and the Nextdoor application was used to reach neighbors. All resources, such as visuals, handouts, and recordings were made available on the City’s website.

In addition to the public comment made available at each meeting, the Working Group discussed the idea of having meetings at various locations, in the evening, in order for more residents to attend and provide input. The group agreed to have evening meetings that would be centered on receiving public comment and input. These meetings took place on September 5, September 28, and October 3 with one being held in West Anaheim, Central Anaheim, and East Anaheim. Over the course of 11 meetings, a total of 91 public comments were received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following sections provide an explanation of the policy cornerstones, short-term framework, and long-term framework that were decided upon amongst the Homeless Policy Working Group.

A HOUSING FIRST MODEL-

A Housing First Model connects individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without any precondition or requirement. When housed, individuals are offered the necessary services to improve

their living condition. This model has shown to have higher retention rates and reduce the cost of emergency services.

POLICY CORNERSTONES-

Policy guidelines need to be sustainable: The Working Group believes that policies should not be reactionary and should be viable for a significant amount of time.

Policy should recognize the citywide impact and be given the highest priority: A thriving city is dependent on the standard of living of its residents. The condition of homelessness has an impact on the individual and the community at-large. It is important that this issue continue to be a priority for Council.

Recommendations to embrace the Housing First Model as a foundation of the policy but recognize the interim need for some form of emergency shelter: Studies show that a Housing First Model is a successful model to address homelessness. This model connects individuals to permanent housing. Recognizing that this may take some time to develop, the Working Group believes there needs to be some form of emergency shelter in the meanwhile.

Clearly define terms and categories used within the body of the final policy document: In order to have consistent language, the Working Group believes Council should adopt the glossary of terms referenced in *Homelessness in Orange County: The Costs to Our Community's Executive Summary*.

Recognition that homelessness is a regional issue and collaboration with other agencies, providers and private sector businesses is essential: Homelessness is a social ill affecting many cities throughout the state and country. In the City of Anaheim, the homeless population continues to grow. The cause of homelessness varies from high cost of living, unemployment, and substance abuse, to migration. It is important to collaborate with other agencies, providers, as well as the business community.

SHORT-TERM FRAMEWORK-

Formally reach out to the County of Orange through a resolution: Recognizing that no one city can resolve the condition of homelessness, comments were made for the need of other jurisdictions, including the County, to better engage in this social issue. More specifically, the Working Group desires the County of Orange to develop a more formal, intentional partnership with cities. Cities would begin to identify land, particularly within the SB 2 Zones, while the County of Orange would provide the necessary funding to fulfill its Housing First Model. This policy recommendation is being suggested to Council due to public statements made by County Supervisors.

Vote: 11-0; Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support by email), Sorkin, and Kurtz; Abstain: Ben-Ron and Calderon. (Oct. 3 Minutes, Page 6; Oct. 20 Minutes, Page 7-8).

Encourage the Council to support efforts for basic sanitation needs for public health and homeless individuals' dignity with strong consideration for appropriate locations: The Working Group believes that there needs to be a strategic effort to provide residents, in the condition of homelessness, the opportunity to get vaccinated, access and use of restrooms, and receive the necessary services. Due to recent media coverage on Hepatitis A breakouts in San Diego, residents, the business community, and Working Group members were concerned about the overall health and wellbeing of residents. To

Homeless Policy Working Group

mitigate this concern, a Working Group member inquired about the addition of sanitation pumps, but City Net staff informed the Working Group that hand sanitizers, like Purell, do not work against Hepatitis A. In addition, during public comments and general discussions among Working Group members, there was a concern on where homeless residents currently go to the restroom. Prior to voting on this item, Senior Policy Aide Helen Myers, on behalf of Mayor Pro Tem Vanderbilt, pulled this item for discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Vanderbilt believed that the County has pledged to provide basic sanitation on their property since they have the greatest amount of funding. In the discussion, members cautioned that basic sanitation could save lives and the wording of the recommendation suggests that this could very well be any effort taken by the County of Orange.

Vote: 11-0; Absent: Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support vote by email), Sorkin, Kurtz; Abstained: Ben-Ron and Calderon. (Oct. 6 Minutes, Page 7-8; Nov. 3 Minutes, Page 11)

Conduct review of Anaheim Police Department's enforcement policies and practices relevant to anti-camping & storage codes: The intent of this recommendation is to review such policies. Some residents have stated that the Anaheim Police Department is not enforcing enough of their policies regarding enforcement, while others believe that the implementation that is taking place is inadequate. Helen Myers on behalf of Mayor Pro Tem Vanderbilt pulled this item for discussion and stated that Mayor Pro Tem Vanderbilt believes it is not necessary to review these policies. According to Senior Policy Aide Myers, Mayor Pro Tem Vanderbilt does believe that there should either be more storage spaces or make it easier for homeless residents to access their belongings. Working Group Member Bates, along with Working Group Member Garrow's email communication, mentioned that the Police Department has good policies and procedures but a component that is missing is educating the public. Working Group Member Garrow communicated this throughout the meetings. Captain Carter had no concern with the recommendation.

Vote: 11-0; Absent: Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support vote by email), Sorkin, Kurtz; Abstained: Ben-Ron and Calderon (Oct. 6 Minutes, Page 5-11; Nov. 3 Minutes, Page 12)

Support temporary, year-round emergency shelters of various types to protect those currently unsheltered: Recognizing that permanent, supportive housing takes a long time to plan, design, and construct, the Working Group believes that there must be some form of temporary housing to mitigate the current shortage of available beds. In the recommendation, "temporary" means that the shelter is transitional for the resident to transition into permanent housing and "year-round" means that the shelter is open year-round. Currently, homeless residents have trouble accessing an emergency shelter. In order to utilize one of the 100 beds at Bridges at Kraemer, one must be referred to the shelter, must be 18 years old or older, or must provide some form of documentation if they are emancipated youth. The Anaheim Police Department conducts their own homeless outreach, so they have been provided with five beds. The amount of guaranteed beds at Bridges at Kraemer is not sufficient to address the current number of unsheltered Anaheim residents. Residents, who are in the condition of homelessness, are also able to access the Fullerton Armory. At the Armory, an individual is provided with a meal, the opportunity to take a shower, and is given a sleeping mat and blanket. Although this armory is available to our homeless population, this emergency shelter is seasonal and all clients must exit the shelter at 6 a.m. There was some discussion on how specific the Working Group should be in listing or supporting particular projects. The Working Group, however, determined that such task was out of their scope. They believe

that city staff should complete a Request For Proposal (RFP) so that Council Members can discuss, assess, and determine which proposal works best for the city.

Vote: 11-0; Absent: Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support vote by email), Sorkin, Kurtz; Abstained: Ben-Ron and Calderon. (Oct. 20 Minutes, Page 7)

LONG-TERM FRAMEWORK-

Develop a sustained funding stream to fund a Housing First Model: Homelessness is a social ill that this Council has prioritized. The City must make a continuous effort to attain funding from the County, state, and federal government. The Working Group recognizes that federal funding continues to decrease and the County's funding is dependent on the support of the Board of Supervisors. In order to successfully implement and sustain a Housing First Model, the Working Group is asking Council to explore all funding opportunities (revenues, fees, taxes, bonds, etc.). There was a separate, proposed recommendation that Council "analyze and evaluate taxes and fees," but Working Group Members Wieckert and Burress did not support this. The Working Group agreed to delete this specific recommendation because it is captured within this recommendation. They also believe that Council should determine the funding formula.

Vote: 11-0; Absent: Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support vote by email), Sorkin, Kurtz; Abstained: Ben-Ron and Calderon. (Oct. 20 Minutes, Page 10; Nov. 3 Minutes, Page 13)

Explore and evaluate affordable housing efforts and/or policies for extremely low-income and low-income households for the City of Anaheim: During the research phase, the Homeless Policy Working Group received a copy of the *Homelessness in Orange County: The Costs to our Community* report. One of the key findings of this report is that homelessness is attributed to insufficient income or job loss as well as the high cost of living throughout the County. In order to prevent more individuals and families from experiencing homelessness, the Working Group recommends that Council explore and evaluate policies that target affordable housing units for extremely low-income and low-income households. This recommendation was amended to add language to include extremely low-income and low-income households. The Working Group received a link to the City's *Housing Element*. When they reviewed the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, they believed that more units needed to be developed for these two categories.

Vote: 11-0; Absent: Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support vote by email), Sorkin, Kurtz; Abstained: Ben-Ron and Calderon. (Oct. 6 Minutes, Page 8-11)

Incentivize the use of city-owned land or Housing Authority land by leasing it at an affordable rate to a developer who would like to build permanent, dormitory-styled housing within a Housing First approach (Yergens-rogers Hall, Tiny Homes, etc.): The Working Group recognizes that in any development project, the cost of land can become very costly. In order to support a Housing First Model, the Working Group members believe that the City needs to optimize opportunities for permanent housing. The Working Group did not want to propose or support one specific model, so they decided to list a couple of examples.

Homeless Policy Working Group

Vote: 11-0; Absent: Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support vote by email), Sorkin, Kurtz; Abstained: Ben-Ron and Calderon. (Oct. 20 Minutes, Page 6)

Incorporate policy criteria to ensure existing municipal codes, as amended, or implemented in the future are not punitive or unduly burden those individuals that are homeless but address the impacts on neighborhoods: The Working Group recognizes that enforcement is a part of multiple efforts that need to be taken to address homelessness. However, enforcement alone is not the solution.

Vote: 11-0; Absent: Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support vote by email), Sorkin, Kurtz; Abstained: Ben-Ron and Calderon. (Oct. 6 Minutes, page 12-13)

Ensure annually that the fiscal year budget provide adequate funding to continue, change, or enhance homeless services provided while remaining nimble to meet the current circumstances (e.g. mobile services for health crisis, re-integration programs): To effectively complete outreach services to our homeless residents throughout the City, the Working Group believes that Council should support efforts that provide portable, wraparound services. Doing so, will allow a person in the condition of homelessness to receive immediate assistance and be provided with information on additional services. The Working Group emphasized that the City play a role in the funding of such service. Nonprofits and the faith-based community play an integral part in providing services to our homeless residents, but their assistance oftentimes is dependent on funding they are able to collect at that particular time.

Vote: 11-0; Absent: Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support vote by email), Sorkin, Kurtz; Abstained: Ben-Ron and Calderon. (Oct. 6 Minutes, Page 14)

Support planning and zoning changes to prioritize the development of affordable housing ensuring equitable distribution of affordable units and any other types of transitional shelters throughout the City: The Working Group believes that Council should make any effort to increase and expedite affordable housing units throughout the City. This item was pulled for discussion at the last Working Group meeting. Natalie Wieckert, on behalf of Supervisor Nelson, stated that the Supervisor does not support this recommendation. Wieckert stated that the Supervisor would prefer that the City consider eliminating fees for building housing. There was discussion to change the language of this recommendation, but the Working Group decided to keep the language as is.

Vote: 8-3; No: Barnes, Carter, and Wieckert; Absent: Vanderbilt (Myers yes vote), Garrow (submitted support vote by email), Sorkin, Kurtz; Abstained: Ben-Ron and Calderon. (Sept. 28 Minutes Page 4; Oct. 6 Minutes, Page 15)