



City of Villa Park

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July 27, 2022

Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: CITY OF VILLA PARK RESPONSE TO THE 2021-2022 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT "HOW IS ORANGE COUNTY ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS?"

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Villa Park, I am pleased to respond to the Grand Jury's report regarding homelessness. The City of Villa Park provides the following responses:

Finding F-3: *The County of Orange and cities within Orange County have been inconsistent in collaboration for support of shelters and services, which has resulted in missed opportunities to end homelessness.*

City Response: The City disagrees wholly with this finding. The City of Villa Park actively collaborates with other North Service Planning Area (SPA) cities to fund Navigation Centers located in the City of Placentia and the City of Buena Park.

Finding F-4: *There are an insufficient number of rental units available to those exiting Emergency Shelters, resulting in the majority returning to homelessness when leaving the shelters.*

City Response: The City partially disagrees with this finding. More information is necessary to discern how insufficient the number of rental units is. The report mentions that the OC Housing and Community Development Division already has plans to construct 2,700 Permanent Supportive Housing units. The City would need to know if the addition of those new units solves the shortage and, if not, what the extent of the shortage still is.

Recommendation R-4: *By July 1, 2024, the County of Orange and cities should collaborate to open facilities that can house people with severe and persistent mental illness and addiction issues in a secure setting.*

City Response: The City of Villa Park fully supports collaborative efforts to open such facilities. However, as one of the smallest cities in Orange County and due to limited resources, the City is

not in a position to initiate such efforts. As such, this recommendation will not be implemented, but the City is happy to participate in plans put forth by the County and other North SPA cities. The City looks forward to the opportunity to partner with our neighbors to support solutions as we have done with the Buena Park and Placentia Navigation Centers.

Recommendation R-5: *By July 1, 2023, the County of Orange, cities and CoC should collaborate to encourage the development of housing affordable to individuals exiting the emergency shelters in Orange County.*

City Response: The City is currently working on developing its 2021-2029 Housing Element which includes compliance with the Regional Housing Need Assessment's (RHNA) allocations for extremely-low and low-income households. This is an ongoing process. The City adopted the Housing Element on June 28, 2022, and hopes that the California Department of Housing and Community Development will certify the plan soon.

Recommendation R-6: *By December 1, 2022, the County of Orange, cities and CoC should collaborate to increase the number of housing opportunities for Transitional Aged Youth.*

City Response: As with Recommendation R-4, while the City of Villa Park supports collaborative efforts to expand housing opportunities for Transitional Aged Youth, our limited resources prevent us from initiating such efforts ourselves. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with North SPA cities and the County to implement solutions that are feasible for the City, but we do not have the capacity to implement this recommendation ourselves.

Sincerely,
THE CITY OF VILLA PARK



Chad Zimmerman
Mayor