



## CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

CITY HALL 10200 SLATER AVENUE FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 92708

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Website: [www.fountainvalley.org](http://www.fountainvalley.org)

(714) 593-4403 FAX: (714) 593-4494  
Email: [fvproud@fountainvalley.org](mailto:fvproud@fountainvalley.org)

September 20, 2022

Honorable Erick Larsh, Presiding Judge  
Orange County Grand Jury  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report Entitled “How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?”**

Dear Honorable Judge Larsh:

Please accept this letter as the City of Fountain Valley’s response to the Grand Jury’s report entitled “How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness”. This report was presented to the City Council at their meeting held on September 20, 2022, whereby the City Council authorized the Mayor to deliver the City’s response to the Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court. Here are the City’s responses to the items requested by the Grand Jury, specifically for the City of Fountain Valley.

### Findings:

**F3. 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.**

The City of Fountain Valley can only speak to its efforts in regards to shelters and services. The City of Fountain Valley has partnered with CityNet since February 2022 to provide services and assistance to the homeless population in our City. In addition, in July 2022, the City executed a Memorandum of Understanding with two (2) neighboring cities (Cities of Garden Grove and Westminster) to construct a navigation center in the Central Service Planning Area to assist the homeless in all three (3) cities.

Through the contribution of over \$8 million in City Redevelopment Funds, the City also partnered with Related California to develop a 50-unit affordable housing project along Harbor Boulevard (Prado Family Homes). A total of 41 units will be reserved for lower income households (30% to 60% of AMI), 8 units designated for permanent supportive housing for veterans, and one unit for an onsite manager. Prado Family Homes will offer 23 one- bedroom, 14 two-bedroom, and 13 three-bedroom apartments. The units are currently under1 Fountain Valley Housing Element Public Review Draft | June 2022 18 construction with occupancy expected in 2022. Affordability will be preserved for a 55-year term (from date of release of construction covenants) and is therefore not at risk of conversion by 2031.

In regards to “missed opportunities to end homeless,” insufficient information is provided regarding how any “inconsistent...collaboration for support” has led to missed opportunities and how consistent collaboration around the County could have better served the homeless in Fountain Valley. The City of Fountain Valley has seen great success with its partnership with CityNet. We anticipate greater success with a future Navigation Center in partnership with the cities of Garden Grove and Westminster. In addition, it would be difficult to determine that any missed opportunities in consistent collaboration, could have actually led to the elimination or end of the homeless issue.

**F4. 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.**

The City of Fountain Valley agrees with the above finding.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**R4. 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. (F2)**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City is fully committed to collaborating with the County and its fellow municipalities on opportunities to house people with severe and persistent mental illness and substance use issues. The City has executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cities of Garden Grove and Westminster to develop a “low barrier” navigation center in the Central Service Planning Area, and we are collaborating with the County on this effort. It is anticipated this project will move forward and open by July 1, 2024. The navigation center would provide emergency housing and services to the literally homeless population, including those with severe and persistent mental illness and substance use issues. There is great need for additional funding opportunities to assist jurisdictions develop housing for those experiencing severe or persistent mental illness and substance use issues.


**R5. By July 1, 2023, the County of Orange, cities and CoC should collaborate to encourage the development of affordable housing to individuals exiting the emergency shelters in Orange County. (F3, F4, F5)**

The recommendation has been implemented. The City of Fountain Valley, as stated above can only discuss its efforts. The City has worked to fund and encourage the development of the Prado Family Homes mentioned above, secured 33 affordable units in a recently approved multi-family project and is working with a non-profit organization on another 29 units of affordable housing that would be available to those existing shelters.

**R6. By December 1, 2022, the County of Orange, cities and CoC should collaborate to increase the number of housing opportunities for Transitional Aged Youth. (F6)**

This recommendation requires further analysis. The report states that 150 beds are required countywide. The City of Fountain Valley is not aware of the demand for transitional aged youth beds in its jurisdiction or its Service Planning Area (SPA). Nor is the report specific on the types of beds and services necessary for this group.

Sincerely,



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Patrick Harper, Mayor  
City of Fountain Valley