

Office of the City Council



September 21, 2022

The Honorable Erick L. Larsh
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

SUBJECT: City of Tustin response to the Orange County Grand Jury 2021-22 Report, dated June 23, 2022, titled "How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?"

Dear Judge Larsh:

In accordance with Section 933.05(a) and (b) of the California Penal Code, the City of Tustin respectfully submits the attached responses to Findings F3 and F4 and Recommendations R4, R5 and R6 of the Orange County Grand Jury Report dated June 23, 2022, titled "How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?"

Should you have any questions, please contact City Manager Matthew S. West, at 714-573-3012 or at mwest@tustinca.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Austin Lumbard'.

Austin Lumbard
Mayor

cc: Tustin City Council
Orange County Grand Jury

Response to 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.**

Response:

The City of Tustin agrees partially with the finding. The City agrees there is inconsistency in collaboration between each of the three Service Planning Areas (SPA) in Orange County, but consistent collaboration between the County of Orange and cities has also been hampered by disjointedly filed lawsuits against individual cities by homeless advocates and the imposition of short-term Settlement Agreements that force cities to take action often in conflict with the broader County organized collaboration efforts. For example: The City was made a party to such a Settlement Agreement and was required to open a temporary emergency shelter within a short time period, necessitating the City to open the shelter without the time for collaborating with other cities or the County. In addition, the Settlement Agreement restricted the City from collaborating with the adjacent Central SPA city, the City of Santa Ana. Finally, the lack of collaboration that was a product of the lawsuit and Settlement Agreement severely impacted the City's ability to receive grant funds from the County and State to operate the facility. Those funding agencies awarded funds based on regional collaboration.

- 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.**

Response:

The City of Tustin agrees with the finding.

Response to Recommendation

- 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)**

Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. The City of Tustin concurs with the County of Orange's August 23, 2022, response to the Grand Jury Report, incorporated herein by reference, which outlines in detail how this recommendation has been implemented.

- R5. 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. (F3, F4, F5)**

The Honorable Erick L. Larsh

September 21, 2022

Page 3

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The City of Tustin concurs with the County of Orange's August 23, 2022, response to the Grand Jury Report, incorporated herein by reference, which outlines in detail how this recommendation has been implemented.

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)

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The City of Tustin concurs with the County of Orange's August 23, 2022, response to the Grand Jury Report, incorporated herein by reference, which outlines in detail how this recommendation has been implemented.