



# City of San Clemente City Manager

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October 4, 2022

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

## **RE: Response to Grand Jury Report Titled "How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?"**

Dear Honorable Judge Larsh,

This letter serves as the City of San Clemente's response to the Grand Jury's report "How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?" The City is responding to F1, F3, F4, and R1 through R6.

### **FINDINGS**

**F1** South Orange County SPA cities lack low-threshold emergency shelters resulting in more homeless encampments and individuals living on the streets.

**Response.** *Agree with finding. However, it is important to note that the number of homeless in the South SPA has declined (Reference PIT 2022). The City of San Clemente provides comprehensive outreach services that result in less homelessness in the City.*

**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.** *Partially disagree. The City of San Clemente and the County of Orange have been responsive to homeless needs through active outreach, mental health services, and health care services.*

**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.** *There is an overall lack of affordable housing in South Orange County, not just in homeless population sector. There is insufficient/lack of data to support this finding.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**R1** By July 1, 2023, the CoC and County of Orange should leverage funding to persuade South Orange County cities to open a regional, low-threshold emergency shelter for the homeless, in addition to the Laguna Beach Friendship Shelter. (F1)

**Response.** *Further analysis by the County of Orange may lead to additional involvement with and from South SPA cities. The City of San Clemente supports the County of Orange collaborating with cities to open and operate a regional shelter.*

**R2** By July 1, 2023, South OC SPA cities should collaborate in siting and funding a low threshold emergency shelter for the homeless, in addition to the Friendship Shelter in Laguna Beach. (F2)

**Response.** *The recommendation requires further analysis by the County of Orange. The City of San Clemente looks forward to working with County of Orange collaboratively to identify a location that can serve as a regional shelter, operated by the County, for the South SPA.*

**R3** The CoC should fund programs in fiscal year 2022-23 for people with severe and persistent mental illness and addiction issues to receive supervised care and treatment. (F2)

**Response.** *The recommendation requires further analysis by the County of Orange. The City of San Clemente supports additional funding for treatment to address mental illness and addiction issues.*

**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 requires further analysis by the County of Orange. The City of San Clemente supports additional funding to open facilities to house people with severe and persistent mental illness and addiction issues in a secure setting.*

**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)

**Response.** *Recommendation has been implemented as part of the housing element adopted by the City of San Clemente City Council. The City will continue to be open to collaboration with the County of Orange.*

**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.** Recommendation has been implemented by the County of Orange. The County of Orange continually works to improve homeless service delivery for transitional aged youth, including the development of the priority service delivery system and transitional aged youth registry.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond. Please let us know if you have any questions at [joyces@san-clemente.org](mailto:joyces@san-clemente.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Joyce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean Joyce  
Interim City Manager  
City of San Clemente

Cc: City Attorney