



January 10, 2023

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

Re: Additional Responses to the 2021-2022 Orange County Grand Jury Report
Titled, "How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?"

Dear Judge Larsh:

In response to a letter from the Grand Jury Foreperson dated December 8, 2022, the City Council of the City of Irvine has authorized the following additional responses to the 2021-2022 Orange County Grand Jury report titled, "How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?" In accordance with Penal Code section 933.05(a) and (b), the City provides the following additional responses to certain of the report's findings and recommendations.

FINDINGS

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

Response: The City disagrees partially with this finding. Irvine agrees that South County SPA cities lack low-threshold emergency shelters. However, the causal link between the lack of the shelters and the number of homeless encampments in those cities is less clear. In fact, the number of homeless individuals countywide has decreased (per 2022 count). Further, the City of Irvine continues to provide outreach, diversion and housing placement services resulting in less south county homelessness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 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: The City of Irvine agrees with this recommendation, which is directed toward actions that the Grand Jury believes the CoC and the County of Orange should take. The City further notes that State and Federal financial support, in part or in whole administered through CoC and County of Orange, is needed to build and safely operate such facilities.

Recommendation 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 City of Irvine agrees with this recommendation, but notes that it will require further analysis by the County of Orange. The City will collaborate to identify a County-operated location that can serve as a regional shelter.

We trust this response from the City of Irvine will be filed with the Grand Jury so that anyone reading the Grand Jury Report will be able to evaluate it in light of Irvine's response set forth above. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Farrah N. Khan
Mayor

cc: Irvine City Council
Orange County Grand Jury