



August 20, 2018

The Honorable Charles Margines
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of Orange
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Response to the 2017-18 Orange County Grand Jury Report re Housing Orange County's Chronically Homeless

Dear Judge Margines:

In accordance with Penal Code 933.05(a) and (b), the City of Tustin submits the following response to the report, findings, and recommendations of the 2017-18 Orange County Grand Jury report entitled, "Where There's Will, There's A Way: Housing Orange County's Chronically Homeless". (The Report directed the City to respond to Findings F1, F2, F4, F6, F7, F8, F9 and F10 and Recommendations R1, R2, R4, R6, R7, R8 and R9.)

FINDINGS

F1. Homelessness in Orange County is a regional problem requiring regional approaches and solutions.

Response: The City of Tustin agrees with the above finding.

F2. The lack of a regional plan designating specific development goals for Permanent Supportive Housing contributes to an insufficient number of available units to house the chronically homeless.

Response: The City of Tustin agrees with the above finding.

F4. Cities' reluctance to provide sites for Permanent Supportive Housing development has contributed to the overcrowded emergency shelters and an increased unsheltered homeless population.

Response: The City of Tustin agrees in part with the above finding. The City agrees that many cities have shown reluctance to provide sites for Permanent Supportive Housing to house the chronically homeless. However, the City of Tustin is not reluctant to do so.

F6. Service Planning Area meetings have successfully brought together city, county and non-profit entities to share information on homeless issues, but have not fostered decision-making or action.

Response: The City of Tustin agrees in part with this finding, but believes the meetings in some SPAs may nevertheless prove more productive in the future.

F7. NIMBYism has impeded the creation of housing for the homeless, including Permanent Supportive Housing, in the County of Orange.

Response: The City of Tustin agrees with the above finding

F8. Orange County cities and the County have engaged in blaming and finger pointing, hampering the collaborative efforts needed to site, finance, and maintain Permanent Supportive Housing.

Response: The City of Tustin partially agrees with the above finding. While there has been occasional blaming and finger pointing among some agencies, there is still a collaborative effort among many agencies, including the City of Tustin, to site, finance and maintain Permanent Supportive Housing.

F9. Cities have taken a silo approach to developing Permanent Supportive Housing, resulting in inefficient leveraging and pooling of funds across municipal borders.

Response: The City of Tustin only partially agrees with the above finding. Although state law requires cities to enable the development of shelters and low-income housing by removing local regulatory barriers, the law does not require cities to acquire real property nor fund development of new housing or shelters. Most cities in the County apply to the County for pass-through funding for social and housing programs as subrecipients. Welfare and Institutions Code 17000 makes it a County responsibility to provide public assistance to the indigent, and funding for social and housing programs is almost exclusively directed to the County. Consequently, the lack of funding available directly to cities limits their ability to take on a direct role in the development of housing and shelters.

F10. There is no established, independent leadership body in the County empowered to address regional homeless issues in an effective manner.

Response: The City of Tustin only partially agrees with the above finding. The County has explored solutions, including the creation of the Homeless Czar and establishment of Service Planning Areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. Orange County cities and the County should develop a Permanent Supportive Housing development plan, and should consider a plan structure similar to the proposal put forth by Association of California Cities – Orange County, that proportionally allocates sites among the cities. (F1, F2, F4, F7, F8)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City of Tustin is a member of the Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) and, as such, is a member of the ACC-OC Homelessness Task Force. On April 3, 2018, the Tustin City Council adopted Resolution No. 18-21 (Attachment 1) authorizing City Staff to participate in the ACC-OC's planning efforts regarding County-wide permanent supportive housing. The Orange County Board of Supervisors has published its "Affordable Housing Strategic Plan", which provides a comprehensive, regional housing business plan that identifies both the number of Permanent Supportive Housing units needed as well as the associated costs of renovating existing units or building new ones.

R2. Each Service Planning Area should identify sites for Permanent Supportive Housing proportional to the allocation suggested in the Association of California Cities – Orange County proposal. (F1, F4)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The City of Tustin is a member of the Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) and, as such, is a member of the ACC-OC Homelessness Task Force. On April 3, 2018, the Tustin City Council adopted Resolution No. 18-21 (Attachment 1) authorizing City Staff to participate in the ACC-OC's planning efforts regarding County-wide permanent supportive housing. The City of Tustin is in the process of establishing a list of sites for potential Permanent Supportive Housing developments.

R4. Cities should ensure decision-makers fully participate in their region's Service Planning Area meetings. (F1, F6, F8, F9)

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The City of Tustin is fully committed to participating in the region's Service Planning Area meetings. Additionally, Tustin City Manager, Jeffrey Parker is a member of the Orange County City Manager's Association (OCCMA) who is currently working with U.S. District Court Judge Carter to inventory available housing and supportive services in the Central SPA, and Tustin's Mayor Al Murray has participated in the meetings with Judge Carter and with ACC-OC's Homelessness Task Force.

R6. Cities should collaborate with, and leverage the work done by, United Way on their "United to End Homelessness" public awareness campaign. (F7)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be. The City of Tustin will contact the United Way to identify opportunities to collaborate in and leverage their public awareness campaign, "United to End Homelessness".

R7. To streamline shelter and Permanent Supportive housing development, the County and its cities should establish a decision-making body, such as a Joint Powers Authority, that is empowered to identify and allocate sites and pool funding associated with housing and supportive services for the homeless. (F1, F3, F4, F7, F8, F9, F10)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The City of Tustin believes in partnering with the County and its fellow municipalities in forming an entity to help identify and allocate potential Permanent Supportive Housing sites, and to explore funding options associated with housing and supportive services for the homeless. The City understands that the County of Orange is in the process of preparing an agreement that may serve as the basis for establishing a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) known as the Orange County Housing Trust (OCHT), and an agency that would act as a regional entity to address homelessness and housing issues through the pooling of public and private funding. The City of Tustin anticipates (upon City Council approval) participating in the OCHT.

R8. Such a decision-making body should develop a comprehensive, regional housing business plan that identifies both the number of Permanent Supportive Housing units needed as well as the associated costs of renovating existing units or building new ones. (F1, F2, F3, F4, F8, F9, F10)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The Orange County Board of Supervisors has published its "Affordable Housing Strategic Plan", which provides a regional housing business plan that identifies both the number of Permanent Supportive Housing units needed as well as the associated costs of renovating existing units or building new ones.

R9. Such a decision-making body should propose a plan for securing local, supplemental sources of funding for both Permanent Supportive housing development and associated support services. (F1, F3, F8, F9, F10)

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The County of Orange has published its "Affordable Housing Strategic Plan", which proposes a plan for securing local, supplemental sources of funding for both Permanent Supportive Housing development and associated support services.

Respectfully submitted,



Elwyn A. Murray
Mayor of Tustin

The Honorable Charles Margines
August 20, 2018
Page 5

EXHIBIT A
City Council Resolution 18-21

RESOLUTION NO. 18-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUSTIN
AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ORANGE COUNTY'S PLANNING EFFORTS
REGARDING COUNTY-WIDE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

WHEREAS, Orange County is in the midst of a homelessness crisis, with the number of unsheltered homeless individuals increasing by 54 percent in the last five years despite increasing expenditures to combat the issue;

WHEREAS, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a nationally recognized model for responding to chronic homelessness, with studies showing PSH decreases chronic homelessness by 30% more than traditional, transitional housing or emergency shelter housing;

WHEREAS, a study conducted by United Way, Jamboree Housing, and UCI found that in fiscal year 2014-2015 cities in Orange County spent approximately \$120 million to address homelessness, more than a third of the total \$300 million spent throughout the entire county;

WHEREAS, that same study found that if all of Orange County's chronically homeless individuals were placed in PSH units it would have a cost-savings of \$42 million per year;

WHEREAS, the Association of California Cities, Orange County (ACC-OC) has initiated efforts for the purpose of planning for the addition of 2,700 PSH units in Orange County;

WHEREAS, ACC-OC has proposed to allocate the 2,700 PSH units among the 34 cities in the County and the County unincorporated areas; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Tustin desires for the City to be represented and to participate in the ACC-OC discussions about PSH units and PSH site locations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Tustin City staff is authorized to participate in ACC-OC meetings and discussions on the City's behalf about the potential allocations and potential siting locations of PSH units. City staff is not, however, authorized to commit the City to a proposed allocation or plan of site locations unless such allocation or plan is considered and approved by the City Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Tustin held on the 3rd day of April, 2018.


ELWYN A. MURRAY,
Mayor


ATTEST:


ERICA N. RABE,
City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) SS
CITY OF TUSTIN)

I, Erica N. Rabe, City Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the City Council of the City of Tustin, California, do hereby certify that the whole number of the members of the City Council is five; that the above and foregoing Resolution No. 18-21 was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 3rd day of April, 2018 by the following vote:

COUNCILPERSONS AYES:	<u>Murray, Gomez, Puckett, Bernstein, Clark</u>	(5)
COUNCILPERSONS NOES:	_____	(0)
COUNCILPERSONS ABSTAINED:	_____	(0)
COUNCILPERSONS ABSENT:	_____	(0)


ERICA N. RABE,
City Clerk