



City of  
**BUENA PARK**

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 21, 2018

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

RE: Response to the 2017-2018 Orange County Grand Jury's Report – *Where There's a Will There's a Way: Housing Orange County's Chronically Homeless*

Dear Judge Margines:

In accordance with Penal Code 933(a) and (b), the City of Buena Park submits the following responses to the findings and recommendations of the Orange County Grand Jury's Report – *Where There's a Will There's a Way: Housing Orange County's Chronically Homeless*.

Respectfully,

Virginia Vaughn  
Mayor  
City of Buena Park

C: Orange County Grand Jury



## Grand Jury Report Responses

### FINDINGS

- F1. The City of Buena Park agrees with this finding.
- F2. The City of Buena Park agrees with this finding.
- F4. The City of Buena Park partially disagrees with this finding. The City has been actively working to find an emergency shelter site within its boundaries for several months. Currently, staff is performing due diligence on a particular property that could be purchased by the City to develop a low-barrier shelter. The City is also a member of the Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACCOC) and a member of the ACCOC Homelessness Task Force. Although the City cannot speak for all cities in the County, there are several ongoing regional efforts to combat homelessness.
- F6. The City of Buena Park partially disagrees with this finding. The Service Planning Area (SPA) meetings are forcing cities to collaborate on ideas and solutions to help the homeless population. These meetings, in conjunction with U.S. District Court Judge Carter's mandate, are assisting these efforts in progressing at an expedited pace.
- F7. The City of Buena Park agrees with this finding.
- F8. The City of Buena Park agrees with this finding.
- F9. The City of Buena Park partially disagrees with this finding. The SPA meetings have forced all cities to work in partnership toward the common goal of mitigating homelessness in Orange County. The issue is now being seen as a countywide issue, rather than a city-by-city problem thereby stimulating a collaborative effort.
- F10. The City of Buena Park agrees with this finding.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
- R2. This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Although the City will continue to work with the North SPA to identify potential regional sites, Buena Park is actively exploring a specific site within its boundaries for a low-barrier shelter. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, the City Council has met in Closed Session to discuss the specific site and its suitability for a shelter. This site will be added to the list the North SPA is currently creating that envelops all cities within the SPA region.
- R4. This recommendation has been implemented. City Manager, Jim Vanderpool, regularly attends SPA meetings, with other City Managers, to work toward the common goal of reducing homelessness countywide.
- R6. This recommendation requires future analysis as the City is not aware of the United Way's public awareness campaign. The City will determine within the next six months if collaboration with the United Way campaign is in the best interest of the City and is the most productive partnership given the City's limited staff and resources.
- R7. This recommendation requires further analysis. The City is open to this type of governing body and will actively engage with the County and surrounding municipalities to identify Permanent Supportive Housing sites. However, the County and its cities must also be open to this type of decision-making body as well. Additionally, as a part of AB 448, the County is also in the process of forming a Joint Powers Authority known as the Orange County Housing Trust (OCHT). This body would act as a regional jurisdiction with the goal of addressing homelessness with both private and public funding opportunities. If such entity was created, it is anticipated that Buena Park would be active participant, with City Council approval.
- R8. This recommendation requires further analysis. If a governing body is created, a comprehensive plan and strategic goals would be appropriate. However, without such governing body in place it is unknown how the governing body would function.
- R9. This recommendation requires further analysis. If a governing body is created, a comprehensive plan and strategic goals would be appropriate. However, without such governing body in place it is unknown how the body would function.