



CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

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August 22, 2018

Charles Margines
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

SUBJECT: Response to the 2017-18 Orange County Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Margines:

In accordance with Penal Code 933.05(a) and (b), the City of Fountain Valley respectfully 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".

FINDINGS

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

Response: The City of Fountain Valley agrees with the 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 Fountain Valley agrees with the finding.

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

Response: The City of Fountain Valley disagrees with the finding. The City is having dialogues with the County to identify a site for permanent supportive housing development.

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 Fountain Valley agrees with the finding.

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

Response: The City of Fountain Valley partially agrees with the finding. The County of Orange has funding from the State and Federal so it is important for the County to have dialogues with cities to identify solutions.

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 Fountain Valley disagrees with this finding. The City and County partnered and were able to resolve the homeless issue in the Santa Ana River Channel and are in discussion with the County to include some permanent housing solution for the homeless population. The City of Fountain Valley is fully committed to partnering with the County and its fellow municipalities to produce Permanent Supportive Housing units.

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 Fountain Valley agrees with this finding and as a member of the ACC-OC, we are considering options being proposed by ACC-OC. The City of Fountain Valley is fully committed to partnering with the County and its fellow municipalities to produce Permanent Supportive Housing units.

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 Fountain Valley disagrees partially with this finding. The City recognizes the County of Orange is exploring solutions, including the creation of the Homeless Czar and 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 City is working with the County of Orange to identify a potential site to incorporate some Permanent Supportive Housing as part of the City's affordable housing project and anticipates to have a plan in 12 month. The City is also in discussion with Central Service Planning Area to identify options and solutions for consideration. The City is also a member of ACC-OC and waiting to hear about the next step of AB 448 – Orange County Trust.

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 City of Fountain Valley is working with the County of Orange to identify Permanent Supportive Housing units. The City is also working with the Central Service Planning Area in collecting data of sheltered and unsheltered homeless PIT and are having discussions to resolve the unsheltered homeless

count. The group has met several times in the last three months and anticipates to collect and share data in six month.

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

Response: The City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager, and the Planning Director are participating in the Central Service Planning Area meetings and the City Manager is updating the City Council regularly. This is an ongoing efforts. Additionally, City Manager Rob Houston, is a member of the Orange County City Manager's Association who is currently working with U.S. District Court Judge Carter to inventory available housing and supportive services in the Central Service Planning Area.

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 City has reached out to United Way to learn about their "United to End Homelessness" public awareness campaign. The City recognizes the need to work with United Way and evaluate options to partner with them in the next six months.

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 County and the cities are meeting regularly to discuss the homeless issue, funding(s), and options for shelters. The City of Fountain Valley is committed to partnering with the County and its fellow municipalities in forming a decision-making body to identify and allocate potential Permanent Supportive Housing sites, and to explore funding options associated with housing and supportive services for the homeless. The City anticipates in six months the County and cities may have a plan to consider.

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: Orange County City Managers' Association and respective elected bodies are having dialogues and as a member of the ACC-OC the City of Fountain Valley are being updated on their process and we will participate as needed and present action(s) for City Council consideration. Anticipate activities in 12 months.

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: As a member of the ACC-OC, we are informed of their homeless issue efforts and affordable housing. When requested, we will update our elected officials for policy directions. This is an ongoing efforts.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Rob Houston, City Manager, at (714) 593-4410, or at rob.houston@fountainvalley.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Vo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "V" at the end.

Michael Vo
Mayor
City of Fountain Valley