



City of Brea

September 19, 2018

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

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report, *Where There's Will, There's a Way: Housing Orange County's Chronically Homeless*

Dear Presiding Judge Margines:

In accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code, this letter contains the response from the City of Brea to the Orange County Grand Jury's report, *Where There's Will, There's a Way: Housing Orange County's Chronically Homeless*. The enumerated items in this response correspond to the Findings and Recommendations contained in the report for the City of Brea.

Findings

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

Response: The City of Brea agrees with this 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 Brea agrees partially with this finding. While a regional plan could facilitate the goal of increasing Permanent Supportive Housing, having a plan in place does not mean the issue would automatically improve. The City of Brea actively tries to find ways to ameliorate homelessness needs via the Brea Resource Center and Homeless Outreach Team, via finding both housing and supportive services to improve overall quality of life.

City Council

Glenn Parker
Mayor

Christine Marick
Mayor Pro Tem

Cecilia Hupp
Council Member

Marty Simonoff
Council Member

Steven Vargas
Council Member

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 Brea disagrees partially with this finding. The City of Brea offers many low income housing options to serve our community through the Low Income Rental Program. Additionally, should any opportunities for development of Permanent Supportive Housing be brought through a development plan review process, the City of Brea would examine the option objectively. It is deceptive to place the fault of overcrowded emergency shelters on the City of Brea, when the organization is actively working on ways to mitigate homelessness issues.

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 Brea disagrees wholly with this finding. The Service Planning Area meetings are a valuable resource for information sharing and relationship building among neighboring cities. The action of meeting together to discuss issues and policies generates the ability to make informed, collaborative decisions. Specifically, these meetings have put into action the development of new shelters that will expand options and reduce homelessness in the Service Planning Area.

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

Response: The City of Brea agrees with this finding. While there are many factors that impede the creation of housing for the homeless, protests against developments for the homeless play a large role.

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 Brea disagrees partially with this finding. There have been positive, collaborative efforts between Orange County cities resulting in the planned development of new homeless shelters. This ability to work with other cities cohesively demonstrates the positive relationship the City of Brea has with its counterparts. The City of Brea also believes it has objectively and honestly assessed homeless issues and has taken action to address them. However, the City of Brea believes improved cooperation with the County of Orange could greatly benefit homeless issues.

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 Brea disagrees partially with this finding. The North SPA meetings have allowed cities to work collaboratively together and promote information sharing. These partnerships have caused the cities to band together to look at the issue with a county-wide approach. Additionally, the City of Brea's Resource Center and Homeless Outreach Team work consistently with its neighboring cities to address homeless concerns.

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 Brea agrees with this finding.

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: This recommendation requires further analysis and coordination with other entities to implement. The City of Brea would consider the structure proposed by the Association of California Cities – Orange County as an option for the Brea City Council to consider.

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

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis and coordination with other entities to implement. The City of Brea actively participates in Service Planning Area meetings to discuss ways of addressing housing for the homeless. The City of Brea would consider the structure proposed by the Association of California Cities – Orange County as an option for the Brea City Council to consider.

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 Brea is fully committed to participating in the North SPA meetings, with Brea's City Manager attending meetings regularly. The City of Brea remains ready to collaborate with its partners to find solutions for homelessness.

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 requires further analysis to holistically understand United Way's campaign. The City of Brea considers all viable opportunities to learn from non-profit and private organizations' methods of reducing homeless issues.

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 requires further analysis and the cooperation of other entities to implement. State legislation has been proposed that will enhance available homeless resources and development. AB448 provides strategies and programs that pool and allocate funding for affordable housing. This legislation will also establish a trust and decision making body to allocate resources for housing and supportive services for the homeless.

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 requires further analysis and the cooperation of other entities to implement. The Orange County Board of Supervisors released its "Affordable Housing Strategic Plan", which proposes a housing plan that identifies the number and cost of Permanent Supportive Housing units needed regionally. AB448 also provides a plan that includes the number and cost 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 requires further analysis and the cooperation of other entities to implement. In accordance with the responses to R7 and R8, AB448 provides strategies and plans that will directly apply to this recommendation. The City of Brea also believes in obtaining regional funding, since homelessness is a regional problem.

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The City of Brea values the Grand Jury's report, *Where There's Will, There's a Way: Housing Orange County's Chronically Homeless* and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Should you have any questions, please contact City Manager, Bill Gallardo, at (714) 990-7711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Gallardo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Gallardo
City Manager
City of Brea

cc: Brea City Council