

FEBRUARY 2019



A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER TO
INFORM, EDUCATE, AND
PROVIDE UPDATES ON
HOMELESSNESS IN
FULLERTON

The Helping Hand

Homeless Services Update

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HOMELESS PERSON'S DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Each year, thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness die on the streets throughout the country due to illness, exposure or violence.

On the first day of winter, the longest night of each year, a National Homeless Person's Day of Remembrance is held to acknowledge those who lost their lives during the year, who had "no known abode."

On December 21, 2018, Fullerton City staff attended a memorial service, held at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, where more than 100 were in attendance, which included representatives from many faith communities and non profit organizations.

The names of 235 men, women and children who died from December 2017 to December 2018 were read aloud and each person had a candle lit in their honor and placed on a table during the ceremony.

This number represents an eleven percent (11%) increase from the 210 who passed away in 2017 and a thirty-one percent (31%) increase from the 180 who died in 2015.

GRAND OPENING OF CITREA APARTMENTS

On February 7, 2019, Mayor Jesus Silva, Council Member Ahmad Zahra, Orange County Board of Supervisor Doug Chaffee and other local leaders celebrated the opening of Citrea Apartments, the first affordable transit-oriented project to be developed in the Fullerton Transportation Center Specific Plan, on the former Hawaiian Punch Bottling plant.

The project is located at 336 E. Santa Fe, in close proximity to schools, a community center, the Fullerton Public Library, a public park, and within walking distance of the Fullerton Train Station and a regional bus transportation hub.

The project consists of 54 affordable units and one manager's unit containing a total of 92 bedrooms (not including the 5 one-room studio units) complemented with a leasing office and a community room that will provide tenant-related supportive services provided by LifeSteps, including adult educational courses such as financial literacy, health and wellness, skill-building, and computer training classes.

Amenities include a courtyard, playground, BBQ, on-site leasing office, laundry facilities and storage room and 83 parking spaces for tenants and guests. The 5-story building includes 5 studio units, 22 one-bedroom units, 14 two-bedroom units, and 14 three-bedroom units.

The Project includes a diverse affordability unit mix consisting of six (6) units affordable to extremely low income tenants whose income is at or below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI). Eleven of the units are affordable to households at or below 40% of AMI, 22 of the units are affordable to very low income tenants whose income is at 50% of AMI, and 15 of the units are affordable to low income households with income at or below 60% of AMI for an overall average affordability of 49% of AMI. Rents range from \$431 to \$1,450 depending on the number of bedrooms and the income level of the unit.

More than 1,300 applications were received. Tenants were selected on a first come, first served basis with a priority given to those who live and/or work in Fullerton.

The development was partially funded by \$8.2 million from the the City's low and moderate income fund. Citrea will help satisfy a need for affordable family housing in the City for many years to come.

If you or someone you know would like to be placed on the waitinglist, call (714) 441-0300.



COMMISSION TO END HOMELESSNESS

In October, 2018, the County of Orange renewed the Commission to End Homelessness to ensure that County government, the 34 Orange County cities, the business sector, faith-based, philanthropic, and community-based organizations, health care companies, public safety and other interested stakeholders work in collaboration to promote an effective response to homelessness in Orange County. It is anticipated that this Commission will meet every other month.

The Director of Care Coordination will work with the Commission to focus on regional policies, strategies to implement affordable housing development, data and gaps analysis, best practice research, social policy, and systemic change.

Priorities include:

- Community Outreach and Education
- Prevention and Diversion
- Clinical Treatment Pathways
- Outreach and Engagement
- Building Regional Shelter Capacity
- Overcoming Barriers to Housing
- Homeless Data System Integration

The Fullerton City Manager represents the North Service Planning Area on the Commission.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 am on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at the OC Transportation Authority Headquarters – 550 S. Main St., Orange, CA.

To find out more information: <http://www.ocgov.com/gov/ceo/care/commendhom> or email: CareCoordination@ocgov.com



2019 POINT IN TIME COUNT - UPDATE

The City of Fullerton partners with the County of Orange and many other cities and agencies to complete a homeless count and survey for Orange County.

The 2019 Point In Time count took place on Wednesday, January 23rd and Thursday, January 24th, 2019. Under the campaign name, *Everyone Counts OC*, a County of Orange initiative, hundreds of volunteers were mobilized to support the effort. Of those who volunteered, more than 60 were dedicated to counting those people in Fullerton who are experiencing homelessness.

According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements, the Point in Time Count is a biennial count of people, on a given point in time, during the last ten days in January.

The County of Orange contracted with three non-profit agencies to support the event's planning and reporting needs which included; City Net, 2-1-1 Orange County, and HUB for Urban Initiatives.

Many local community groups like Pathways of Hope, and OC United

were supported by volunteers during the event.

Additionally, Fullerton Police Officers assisted City Net, our partner, by advising and mapping out the City of Fullerton's locations where people in Fullerton experiencing homelessness frequent.

Beginning at 5:00am to 9:00am and again from 7:30pm to 11:30pm on both days, Team Captains, along with between 3 to 5 Field Surveyors deployed into the community to canvas a geographic area of Orange County.

As people were encountered, the team administered a 28 question survey utilizing a smart phone application, to collect demographic information. The information collected includes the number of veterans, transitional aged youth, families with children and seniors, as well as the number of people affected by physical, and mental health concerns and disabilities.

In order to avoid duplication, each person interviewed

was given a unique identifier that utilized the first two letters of their first name, first two letters of their last name, their age, the city of their birth, as well as their ethnicity.

For those who declined to respond to the survey, field surveyors answered five questions to capture basic applicable data.

The count provides vital information to help the County better understand homelessness in the community, to guide the way the County and its partners respond to homelessness and to provide data necessary for the County to receive more funding and resources to address homelessness.

The raw data is being reviewed by a third party to remove duplications and verify the accuracy of the information collected.

The information is due to HUD in April, but it is anticipated that based on the process utilized, the results should be released before then.

For more information: www.cityoffullerton.com/homelessness