



The Helping Hand

Homeless Services Update

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BUENA PARK NAVIGATION CENTER GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

On July 10, 2019, a ground breaking ceremony for construction of the Buena Park Homeless Navigation Center located at 6494 Caballero Blvd. in Buena Park, brought together a partnership of officials from cities, nonprofits, the County of Orange and the State of California. Attendees gathered in the late afternoon at the site bringing with them donations of clothing and hygiene products.

The Buena Park Homeless Navigation Center is a transitional, temporary homeless shelter which is a product of the collaboration between the North Orange County Service Planning Area (North SPA) cities. It will serve community members experiencing homelessness as the first key step in guiding them into permanent supportive housing.

The Center was first conceived in 2018 when the North SPA, comprised of the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Orange, Placentia, Villa Park, Stanton and Yorba Linda began working together to find suitable locations for multiple shelters.

The Buena Park Navigation Center will provide 150 beds, housing and supportive case management, medical services, and a variety of resources to assist those who stay there while awaiting additional housing opportunities.

The facility was awarded \$6.4 million in HEAP funding and additional funding will come from participating North SPA cities. Operational costs totaling approximately \$2.6 million will be funded in part by Senate Bill 2, as well as additional funding from participating North SPA cities. Fullerton will be providing approximately 30% of the funding from the participating cities. Therefore, 30% of the beds will be held for people experiencing homelessness from Fullerton.

FEDERAL HOMELESS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT DETAILS

In last month's edition of "The Helping Hand" a brief summary was given regarding the Settlement Agreement that the City of Fullerton, along with eleven other North Orange County cities, entered into with the plaintiffs of the *Orange County Catholic Worker, et al., v. Orange County, the City of Anaheim, the City of Costa Mesa, and the City of Orange*.

Here are the details regarding the terms of the Settlement Agreement. They include:

- Construction and operation of two navigation centers with a capacity of 250 beds
- Enforcement of city ordinances as long as the identified shelter capacity exists
- The Settlement Agreement spells out the policies in which North SPA cities may enforce local ordinances through establishing contacts by Outreach and Engagement Personnel, to include trained police officers/Sheriffs (such as Homeless Liaison Officers), as well as spells out a dispute resolution process.
- Anti-Discrimination Laws. The Settlement Agreement reinforces the need to meet all applicable anti-discrimination laws
- Release and Covenant Not to Sue. The Settlement Agreement releases and forever discharges the North SPA cities (and current and former officials) from any and all claims, etc., related to the lawsuit

• Attorney's fees. Each side will pay their own attorney's fees

• Non-Admission of Liability. By entering the agreement, the North SPA cities admit no liability or wrongdoing as to the claims alleged in the lawsuit

• Term. The Settlement Agreement provide four (4) years of protection under the Federal judge

The North SPA cities have a long tradition of collaborating on regional issues regarding local governance. Upon interacting with Judge Carter in the federal case, the city managers of the cities began focusing on long-term solutions to address homelessness and drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to spell out the relationship of the cities with regard to two identified locations for new navigation centers.

The City Councils of each city approved the MOU and gave approval for the Settlement Agreement negotiations. "The Settlement Agreement is a great accomplishment, but it only marks the beginning of a serious effort to reduce homelessness," stated Fullerton City Manager, Ken Domer. "Regional collaboration is key to this issue and we will see more successes based on collaboration between cities, community and faith-based organizations, the County of Orange, and our State elected leaders."

ARMORY TO REOPEN IN OCTOBER

Staff recently received notification from the California Military Department (CMD) that the Fullerton Armory will once again be open as a Cold Weather Shelter effective October 15, 2019. The opening date is two months earlier than previous years.

In addition, staff had requested that the Armory to stay open later in the morning so that clients would not have to exit the facility at 5:30 am. The CMD agreed to allowing the facility to stay open one hour later in the morning. Therefore, clients

will be allowed to stay in the facility until 6:30am every morning.

Staff is looking into safe storage options, program parameters, locations, and program operators and organizations to assess clients and offer services, in conjunction with the Armory reopening. Security, transportation and CalOptima Mobile Clinic services are also being researched.

More information to be provided in future editions or on the the City's website at: www.cityoffullerton.com/homelessness

AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE HOMELESS TASK FORCE

On July 2, 2019, the City Council approved the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee of the Homelessness Task Force to develop a coordinated response to homelessness and return to City Council with recommendations within five (5) months.

The causes and solutions to homelessness are complex and evolving. Collaboration between various levels of government; federal, state, regional and local is required. Partnerships with faith-based communities, homelessness service providers, medical and mental health professionals, and housing developers and advocates are also necessary. There are numerous strategies that could be employed to help address homelessness in our community, but none are simple or without potential consequences that need to be considered and evaluated. Strategies that could be considered by a Homelessness Task Force include, but are not limited to:

- Establish a Safe Parking Program in conjunction with services and assessments for the coordinated entry system.
- Provide Remote Safe Storage facilities in conjunction with services and assessments, and the utilization of the Armory
- Partner with "Built to Zero", a national non-profit that provides training, partnership models and measurement tools to communities trying to address homelessness.
- Coordinate with CalOptima Mobile Clinics for medical services to be provided at the Armory and other locations where people experiencing homelessness are known to frequent
- Develop a Chrysalis Work Program
- Evaluate the feasibility of a Fullerton-specific emergency shelter (in addition to the North SPA shelters)
- Establish a Daytime Access Center using modular buildings
- Establish temporary shelters using modular buildings
- Explore opportunities for recuperative care facilities
- Develop Bridge Housing

Staff has forwarded a list of potential committee members to the Mayor for additional recommendations and approval. Meeting dates will be scheduled as soon as the committee members have been informed.

CITY EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

On July 2, 2019, staff make a presentation to City Council City Council regarding all of the efforts that have been taken over the last two years. Staff as been involved in the following activities:

City Manager

1. Attended the following meetings
 - Numerous Federal hearings, proceedings and meetings with the Judge
 - North Orange County City Managers meetings
 - North SPA Collaborative meetings
 - Member of the Commission to End Homelessness
 - Grand Jury Meeting on Homelessness
2. Instrumental in Catholic Workers Settlement
3. Worked Collaboratively with North SPA Cities for the award of HEAP, SB2 and CESH funds

Homeless Liaison Officers (2)

1. Offered services and assessment throughout the City six days a week with the following :
 - City Net 2 Full Time staff go 2 days a week (exited 289) from Fullerton. Expanded to 3.33 FTE Staff 5 days a week
 - Behavioral Health Worker
 - Health Care Agency Mental Health Workers
2. Respond to all issues regarding homelessness with residents, businesses and organizations
3. Completed extensive training

Homeless Resources Consultant (Part-Time)

1. Chair the Homeless Task Force
2. Ad Hoc Committee staff contact
3. Contact for the Faith Community Faith Leaders including Fullerton Act and Fullerton Interfaith Ministerial Association
4. Created Resources Training Program
5. Updated Resource materials
6. Reviewed Report on the Task Force on Homelessness to determine status of recommendations
7. Research Partners and non-profit service providers for engagement with churches
8. Organized service providers meeting to ensure outreach and engage offered appropriately.
9. Support staff for Ad Hoc Committee of the Homeless Task Force

Housing and Homeless Resources Manager

1. Responded to all issues regarding homelessness:
 - Main City Contact for:
 - i. City Net, Health Care Agency, Behavioral Health, Mental Health, CalOptima
 - ii. Residents, Businesses, Non Profits, visitors, City Council, Other Stakeholders
2. County, State, Federal Agencies regarding homelessness (Care Coordination)
3. Created Multi-Departmental Task Force with Homeless Liaison Officers, and staff from Public Works, Library, Parks & Recreation, Community Development etc.
4. Assisted with the County 2019 Point in Time Count
5. Prepared Resolution of Intention for shelter definition to fulfill conditions of York Settlement Agreement
6. Prepared three Notice of Request for funding RFPs for the use of HOME funds for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing.
7. Met with St. Philip Benizi's, Illumination Foundation and OCTA for Safe Parking Program

Housing and Homeless Resources Manager (Continued)

8. Met with Bill Taormina, Tri-Parish and Illumination Foundation on Emergency Shelter
9. Attended:
 - Numerous Regional meetings regarding Continuum of Care, County or Orange, HEAP, CESH, SB2 Workshops, No Place Like Home, Welcome Home OC
 - Trainings on CalOptima and Whole Person Care
 - Bridges at Kramer Place Advisory Meetings
 - 7 Homeless 101 trainings Held
 - 5 meetings with the Tri-Parish Collaborative members
 - 9 Fullerton Collaborative Homeless Subcommittee meetings
 - 3 Federal Court hearings and Walked 5 miles of rail road tracks with Federal Judge Carter.
 - Grand Jury Meeting on Homelessness
 - Annual Interreligious Memorial Service
 - Inaugural Workshop of Safe Parking Professionals
 - Shelter tours in Tustin, Bridges at Kraemer Place and La Mesa
10. Administered Homeless service providers contracts including
 - Pathways of Hope for Housing Navigation and Life Skills Training
 - Hart Community Homes, Job Training for Foster Youth
 - Chrysalis, Jobs for homeless/previously homeless
 - Jamboree Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Care Housing Social Services
 - Lutheran Social Services, Victims Intervention Program
 - Young Lives Redeemed, Homeless Youth Wellness Program
 - Stand Up for Kids and "We Got Your Back" programs for homeless youth
 - Mercy House, Operating Costs for:
 - i. Bridges at Kraemer Place
 - ii. California National Guard Armory
 - Created staff Code of Conduct and organized Employee Fair Housing and homeless training for Planning Department staff to fulfill a condition of the York Settlement Agreement
 - Created "The Helping Hand Newsletter" and prepared 9 editions
 - Responded to more than 100 emails, letters, requests for information regarding homelessness
11. Researched:
 - Four Safe Parking models including Santa Barbara's New Beginnings, LA Dreams for Change, San Diego's and Korea Town models
 - Safe Storage program, costs and types of bins
 - Modular Housing Options
12. Presented City Homeless Efforts, Declaration of Shelter Crisis, and Ad Hoc Committee of Homeless Task Force to City Council
13. Administration of the Ad Hoc Committee of Homeless Task Force

FULLERTON DECLARES A SHELTER CRISIS-WHAT DOES THAT DO FOR FULLERTON?

On July 2, 2019, City Council approved a Resolution declaring a shelter crisis. Initially, declaring a shelter crisis was a requirement to apply for State funding. However, this is no longer the case, but declaring a shelter crisis may allow the City to be more successful in receiving future funding, having declared the shelter crisis. This would be good news as there is not any dedicated funding identified to be used in the future for additional beds to be built in Fullerton.

In addition, a city can obtain immunity from liability for ordinary negligence in the provision of emergency housing pursuant to Section 8698.2 of the law which states that the limitation of liability shall apply only to "conditions, acts, or omissions directly related to, and which would not occur but for, the provision of emergency housing. Additionally, the law states that, "The provisions of any local regulatory

statute, regulation, or ordinance prescribing standards of housing, health, or safety shall be suspended to the extent that strict compliance would in any way delay prevent, or hinder the mitigation of the effects of the shelter crisis." However, Fullerton could put in place reasonable standards consistent with ensuring "minimal public health and safety" for those public facilities before they were to open.