

Addressing Homelessness In North Orange County



Supervisor Shawn Nelson
Chairman, Orange County Board of Supervisors

Homelessness in OC

- As of 2011 survey data indicates shows over 18,000 people become homeless in Orange County each year.
- The County's OC Community Services oversees the operation of a \$1.2 million seasonal emergency shelter each year from December through March/April. Mercy House is the contractor/operator.
- In FY 2010-11, County agencies allocated approximately \$67 million, OC cities allocated \$10.5 million, and private foundations allocated \$3.9 million to address homelessness in OC.
- National and local studies have confirmed that it is more cost effective to provide year-round emergency shelter and supportive housing versus jails/prisons, emergency rooms, and other points of impact to local government and the community.

Fullerton Armory Emergency Shelter



Current Program Limitations

- 26 yr use of National Guard Military Facilities in Fullerton and Santa Ana
- Seasonal Program (December – April) providing 200 beds in 7,000 square feet of space
- Limited facility access from 6 pm – 6 am causes unintended consequences of homeless arriving and departing at the same time
- Seasonal set-up/tear down program not as cost effective as a year-round shelter/multi-service center
- Military facilities not designed to adequately serve homeless families with children and homeless individuals at the same time
- Lack of 24/7 shelter & service center results in a more visible street homeless population

The Discussion

- Homeless issues reached a crisis point in North County
- February 2012 – “All Hands Meeting” to discuss homeless issues and needs
- Fullerton Taskforce convenes and issues their own findings (Sept 2011-May 2012)
- Unanimous #1 Priority – Year Round Facility
- Site search commenced

The Vision

- Replace the seasonal Fullerton Armory Program
- Improve the program model
- Improve the level and array of services
- Improve the quality of life in Fullerton

The Opportunity

- On 1/15/13, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement to acquire a new facility
- 29,000 sq/ft building at 301 S. State College
- OC Bridges project separating State College from Rail Roads
- Facility will have capacity to house a multi-service center
- Open 24/7 to improve service delivery and address rush hour arrival/departure of homeless clients during opening/closing hours

Operational Standards

- Capacity not to exceed current model
- Expanded Services to at-risk and homeless families and individuals
- Service coordination & access will be planned to address community concerns
- Security & Partnership with Fullerton PD
- “Good Neighbor” Policy

Commonly Asked Questions

- Safety of Community/Surrounding Area
 - Businesses
 - Neighborhood Residents
 - Schools
- Capacity of Facility
- Design Standards
- Operating Standards

Commonly Asked Questions

- Impact on Neighborhood Property Values
- Mental Illness/Substance Abuse/Felons
- Appraised Value of Building
- Timing of Community Notification
- Geographic Population/Busing in from other areas

Community Meeting

March 11th, 2013

6:30pm

Fullerton Library Conference Center

353 Commonwealth Ave

Fullerton, CA

COUNCIL QUESTIONS?