

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 3/3/06  
**Department Name:** BoS  
**Department No.:** 011  
**Agenda Date:** 3/14/06  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Susan Rose  
Second District Supervisor

**STAFF** Alissa Hummer, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Executive Staff Assistant (x2191)  
**CONTACT:** Nancy Madsen, Human Services Program Director (x4078)

**SUBJECT:** Name change of the City/County Homeless Advisory Committee to "South Coast Homeless Advisory Committee of Santa Barbara County"

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors: Approve the name change of the City/County Homeless Advisory Committee to the South Coast Homeless Advisory Committee of Santa Barbara County

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

This recommendation is aligned with Goal I: An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community, and Goal VI: A County Government that is Accessible, Open, and Citizen Friendly.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

In the mid-1980s, the Board of Supervisors and the Santa Barbara City Council took action to create the "City/County Task Force on the Homeless" to address issues of homelessness in the greater Santa Barbara area. In 1987, after a few years of work, the Steering Committee of the Task Force recommended that the Task Force be restructured to include City and County elected officials, City and County staff, homeless service providers, homeless individuals and advocacy groups, and interested community members including business people. The Task force also recommended that the new group be named the "City/County Advisory Committee for Homeless Services." Over time, this name has changed informally to "City/County Homeless Advisory Committee." The Committee is advisory only, and has no direct authority for action. Instead, it acts as the "eyes and ears" of the Board and the City Council to raise awareness about issues involving homelessness. It provides a forum for service providers to communicate with each other regarding their services and activities, and to share ideas regarding challenges and successful approaches to those challenges. In addition, it provides a forum for homeless individuals to air concerns and ideas.

During the two decades that the Committee has existed, substantial changes have occurred in the South Coast regarding the homeless, including the expansion of services at Transition House and the Rescue Mission, the opening and expansion of Casa Esperanza, the development of the Safe Parking Program for individuals who live in recreational vehicles, and many other developing programs. These positive changes are due in part to the Committee's existence as a place to air ideas and to inspire community leaders to take action to improve the lives of the homeless and to enhance the environment for the entire community.

Similar groups of City and County officials, staff, service providers and community members currently exist in Lompoc and Santa Maria. As in the Santa Barbara area, these committees have helped to increase services to the homeless and to broaden community awareness in those areas.

In the last few years, the City of Goleta has joined in the activities of the Santa Barbara based Committee, and outreach to the City of Carpinteria has begun. The Isla Vista community is also a participant from time to time. In order to better describe its breadth and scope, the Committee reached consensus at its January 12, 2006 meeting that its name should be changed to "South Coast Homeless Advisory Committee of Santa Barbara County," subject to the approval of the Board of Supervisors and the Santa Barbara City Council. On January 31, 2006, the City Council approved the name change by unanimous vote.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

This Committee is not mandated. Service levels will not be affected.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

None

**Special Instructions:**

None

**Concurrence:**

County Counsel

Public Health Department