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From: Geof Bard [geofferybard@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2010 4:45 PM
To: SupervisorCarbajal; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Centeno, Joseph; Gray, Joni
Cc: sbcob
Subject: 10-00475 Agenda Item 5 Meeting of Nov 2,2010 Warming Shelters
 Regarding: Emergency Homeless Warming Shelters

Greetings:

I am pleased to present this summary of the preliminary findings of the Steve Levios Memorial Voter Registration Drive and Homeless Opinion Surveythe emergency shelter during cold and rainy winter months is first and foremost a matter of conscience and a matter of the heart. Cold hard statistics alone do not tell the story, but rather the stories of the people involved, be they the hard working volunteers or those for whom the program is literally a lifesaver.

Insofar as data is useful, the most important data would be wind chill survivability curves correlated to age, medical condition and weather readiness of those persons at risk. I have personally interviewed homeless people in their sixties and homeless people who do not own a sleeping bag. Many are being turned away from Casa Esperanza in part due to the lack of beds, in part due to various social chasms.

I hope this information is of use to you with regard to the above referenced item::

FINDING 1: Homeless persons are drawn to Southern California due to climate, personal, social and historical factors unrelated to service levels.

FINDING 2: Reduction in the quality and/or quantity of service levels for homeless persons fails to result in reduction of visible numbers of homeless persons in a metropolitan region

FINDING 3: Reduction in service levels leads to increased visible numbers of distressed homeless persons who may panhandle, complain of lack of necessities such as food or treatment or articulate generalized cynicism, anger, hopelessness and frustration

Since the project was not funded and its numbers were not at a statistical threshold, the above findings remain hypotheses but plausible ones with at least anecdotal interview evidence in support of same. It seems that there is no evidence to the contrary, and numerous field interviews support these preliminary findings. Perhaps there will be a grant at some future date to support a literature search and additional, systematic, tabulated and recorded field data collection to investigate these findings.

Lacking evidence to the contrary, it would appear that those three findings would provide a reasonable basis with which to proceed on the above referenced agenda item. Please disseminate this communication as may be useful to the board.

Thank for the opportunity to comment in writing.

Geoffery Bard
 Facilitator
 The Steve Levios Memorial Project