



# City of Santa Barbara

Office of Mayor

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May 10, 2012

Helene Schneider  
Mayor

Doreen Farr, Chair, 3rd District Supervisor  
Salud Carbajal, Vice-Chair, 1st District Supervisor  
Janet Wolf, 2nd District Supervisor  
Joni Gray, 4th District Supervisor  
Steve Lavagnino, 5th District Supervisor

City Hall  
735 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93101-1990

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93102-1990

I am writing to express my support for the proposed merge of Bringing Our Community Home (The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness), the Homeless Advisory Committees, and Common Ground Santa Barbara that will be heard by your Board on Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

Tel: 805.564.5323  
Fax: 805.564.5475

This merger will significantly improve the coordination of homeless services throughout Santa Barbara County and will ultimately benefit those in our community struggling with homelessness. The fiscal impacts of homelessness on our health care and criminal justice systems are huge. It is well documented that housing the homeless in supportive housing is far more cost effective than allowing them to remain on the street, moving through the revolving door of jail, the emergency room, detox facilities and other services.

As the 2010-11 Grand Jury Report on Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent recidivism illustrates, there is a need for centralized coordination among public and non-profit resources in order effectively combat the poverty, mental and physical illness, and addiction issues at the root of chronic homelessness.

The City of Santa Barbara has also allocated \$75,000 in Fiscal Year 2012 to be utilized towards this effort, and we encourage other regional public agencies to also allocate their fair share of funding.

I urge you to take the necessary steps to make changes to existing ordinances or create new ones to codify this new structure; and to find matching funds in the coming fiscal cycle for the County's share to establish the centralized infrastructure and dedicated staffing for this effort. The City of Santa Barbara is also ready and willing to work in partnership with you moving this process forward.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Helene Schneider  
Mayor



Please consider the environment before printing this letter.