



May 10, 2012

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I represent several organizations that have been involved with Common Ground Santa Barbara since its inception. As a part of Christian Associates International, our Uffizi Mission group (which runs the Pershing Park meal sharing) – we participated in the creation and running of the Registry Week. I am also the Director of the Village Apartments run by The Turner Foundation, and they offered time and resources for the Registry Week as well. As a part of these organizations and movements, as well as being a core team member of Common Ground Santa Barbara, I wish to express that we support the proposed merge of BOCH, CGSB, and the Homeless Advisory Committees.

It is our belief that this merge will result in a far more effective collaborative model for solving issues around homelessness in our county. We feel that it is the shared responsibility of the community, agencies, services, faith communities, and government agencies to partner together to bring needed change to the issues that surround our friends on the streets.

The organizations I represent are committed to bringing resources to the table. Our primary work is to raise up volunteers throughout the community to be involved relationally with street friends, but I would also see us as raising funds to support the new merge. I personally will be involved in the Coordination Committee and organizing the Community Action Groups – but we will also continue to build new volunteer leadership as needed.

We strongly urge you to approve the structure which has been created and to work to fund the necessary leadership to make this work effective.

Sincerely,

Jeff Shaffer

Common Ground Santa Barbara Core Team  
Founder Uffizi Mission Project  
Director of the Village Apartments, Turner Foundation