

Purpose Statement:

C3H will harness all resources available to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness, as well as minimize the impacts of homelessness in Santa Barbara County.



June 2, 2016

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors
511 East Lakeside Pkwy, Suite 47
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Sent Via Email

Dear Supervisor Adam,

I write in support of a critical project being developed by Good Samaritan in Orcutt to house 5 veterans who are formerly homeless. As you have indicated to me in the past, you are eager to see permanent housing solutions for homeless people developed in the county -- here is one of the finest examples I can think of.

First, Good Samaritan proposes to house veterans who are formerly homeless - a group that receives tremendous support from numerous sources, and who have proven to be very successful in permanent housing. Second, Good Samaritan will have a resident manager onsite to ensure that the residents are well behaved, and working to improve their lives. Third, Good Samaritan has one of the best track records in the County for working with people who are homeless at all stages, from getting off the street, to getting clean and sober, to finding employment and to living successfully in permanent housing.

As you know, veterans are the top priority for federal services. The federal HOME funds that the Supervisors will approve for this project will help to ameliorate the injustice of homelessness for our nation's defenders. They served us, and now, it is our moral duty to serve them.

At C3H, we understand that sometimes neighborhood residents are uncomfortable with the past histories of some of our homeless clients, and worry that housing them in "their back yard" might be disruptive or dangerous. The reality is that these fears are rarely, if ever, justified, and that permanent housing such as this project has proven to be a real asset for the community. Finally, in this case, the housing is ALREADY set aside for affordable rents and low-income tenants. The Supervisors should feel an added level of comfort with the excellent management that Good Samaritan will provide.

Please join us in welcoming this essential project to the Santa Barbara community. We applaud the leadership of Good Samaritan and look forward to even more opportunities for our homeless residents.

Sincerely,

Chuck Flacks

cc: Sylvia Barnard, Bob Nelson, Doreen Farr (Policy Council) and Steve Lavagnino (Policy Council)