



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: September 15, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item:
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, 805-568-3400
George Chapjian, Community Service Director 805-568-2485

Contact Info: Dinah Lockhart, Deputy Director 805-568-3523
Kimberlee Albers, Homeless Assistance Programs Manager, 805-560-1090

SUBJECT: Response to 2019-20 Grand Jury Report: Homelessness in Santa Barbara County

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors (Board):

- a) Consider and adopt the responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2019-20 Grand Jury report entitled "Homelessness in Santa Barbara County," Attachment B;
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court; and
- c) Determine that the recommended actions are not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) and 15378(b)(4), finding that the recommended actions consist of administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

On June 19, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report entitled "Homelessness in Santa Barbara County." Staff recommends that the Board consider the proposed response to the report (Attachment A) and authorize the Board Chair to sign the letter to convey the response to the Santa Barbara

County Grand Jury (Attachment B). The Board is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by September 17, 2020.

Background:

On June 19, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report entitled “Homelessness in Santa Barbara County.”

The Grand Jury’s report contained 11 findings and recommendations:

1. There is a need for greater transparency, understanding and accountability of homeless related expenditures and the results.
2. Permanent Supportive Housing for the most vulnerable homeless is lacking.
3. State and federal funding that is granted to Santa Barbara County does not sufficiently support the mandate for housing the homeless.
4. Elected City and County leaders have not exhibited aggressive leadership in determining the availability of sites in their jurisdictions for housing the homeless.
5. A greater effort is needed to inform and include the public regarding the needs of the homeless for housing and services and how it can appropriately fit into neighborhoods.
6. There are no elected leaders serving as voting members of the Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care Board.
7. A conflict of interest exists within the membership of the Continuum of Care Board as the member organizations who seek funding for their projects are permitted to vote and grant funding for their own projects.
8. All overnight emergency shelters are at capacity year-round, there are not enough day centers, and there are currently no Navigation Centers in Santa Barbara County.
9. Currently, several California cities are providing temporary homeless facilities by utilizing alternative cost-effective forms of housing such as high-performance tension fabric structures, tiny houses, and modular housing.
10. Currently, in some California cities, large health care insurers are utilizing their tax credits to fund housing facilities for the chronically homeless.
11. Housing First’s wraparound services concept necessitates an increased staff-to-client ratio.

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury named the Board as a responder to all of the findings and recommendations. The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury also named the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria as responders to the findings and recommendations, with the exception of findings and recommendations 6, 7, and 11. Responses to the Grand Jury’s report are posted at <http://www.sbcgj.org/2020/>.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board’s action on this matter.

Special Instructions:

- 1) As per Recommendation b, forward the original signed letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court.
- 2) Please email a copy of the signed letter and a copy of the minute order to Dinah Lockhart, Deputy Director, Housing and Community Development Division/Community Services Department

Attachments:

- A) Board of Supervisors Response
- B) FY 2019-20 Grand Jury Report on Homelessness in Santa Barbara County

Authored by:

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