



Meeting Date: July 24, 2007

| ACTION | TYPE OF ITEM |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation | <input type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Prepared By: Will Reed Agenda Item No. 0-2
 Reviewed By: City Manager [Signature] (A. Holmberg) City Attorney [Signature] Finance SW Other (Specify) N/A

DATE: July 12, 2007

TO: City Council

FROM: Sal Gonzalez, Housing Director
Housing Department [Signature]

SUBJECT: Adoption of Ventura County 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council adopt the Ventura County 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness as recommended by the City’s Commission on Homelessness and the Homeless Working Group or direct the Housing Director to proceed with the creation of the City’s own 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

SUMMARY

In 2003 the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requested local jurisdictions participating in federally funded homeless programs to develop “local 10-year plans to end chronic homelessness.” The two agencies agreed that chronic homelessness is the most visible form of homelessness, consisting most often of unaccompanied individuals who have been homeless for a year or more, or multiple times over several years, disabled by drug addictions, mental illness, chronic physical illness or disability, or developmental disability, with frequent histories of hospitalization, unstable employment, and incarceration. Because the City is a recipient of federally funded homeless program, namely the Continuum of Care grant, this directive is applicable for us to do one or the other.

DISCUSSION

In December of 2005, City Council adopted a resolution supporting the development of a 10-year plan to end homelessness in Oxnard. On December 11, 2006, City Council appointed a 16-member ad-hoc committee named the “Homeless Working Group” to guide the development of the 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness.

However, since that time, County Supervisor Kathy Long has requested that the City adopt the County’s 10 Year Strategy to End Chronic Homelessness (Strategy). The County’s Strategy was adopted by the County in June of this year and submitted to the ICH, but has yet to be accepted and

approved.

After this request was made, the Housing Director and staff spoke in detail with Mr. Eduardo Cabrera from the ICH, and followed up with a formal letter to obtain the ICH's view point on the matter. Mr. Cabrera offered two (2) recommendations:

1. The City could develop its own plan with a strategy unique to Oxnard, or
2. The City adopt the County's Strategy but develop its own action items and develop more fully the details and benchmarks for each item.

This response was taken to the City's Commission on Homelessness and the Homeless Working Group on Monday, July 2 in a Special Meeting. At the meeting both groups voted unanimously to adopt the County's Strategy with the City identifying its own action items and fully developing the benchmarks for each item.

The following is a discussion on the pros and cons of adopting the County's Strategy.

Pros

- Much of the initial legwork in identifying major issues specific to homeless individuals in general terms has been completed which would allow the Commission on Homelessness and the Homeless Working Group to identify those issues specific to Oxnard and to begin to develop action items to achieve the desired results,
- A consistent message from a county-wide viewpoint would be presented to both the ICH and HUD, and
- The City would move closer in the process towards meeting the anticipated presentation and adoption date of September 25, 2007.

Cons

- Previously Mr. Eduardo Cabrera (ICH) recommended that the City create its own plan, however, it is still unclear if this is the appropriate direction since City staff has had no involvement with the development of the County's Strategy.
- The City is in the process of updating its General Plan and the 10-Year Plan/Strategy should reflect the anticipated housing stock that will be included in the General Plan, and
- Because the County's Strategy has yet to be accepted by the ICH, adopting it prematurely could delay the presentation and adoption of a plan many months after the anticipated September date if the plan is not accepted by the ICH.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts for the City as the Housing Department is seeking direction from City Council on the issue of adopting the County's 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness or develop its own plan.

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