



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

September 2, 2005

RECEIVED  
RECEIVED  
SEP 8 2005  
SEP 15 2005  
SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY GRAND JURY

Honorable John S. Einhorn  
Presiding Judge  
San Diego County Superior Court  
Main Courthouse, Third Floor  
220 W. Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Einhorn,

In the 2004 – 2005 Grand Jury Report on the issue of homelessness in San Diego, two recommendations were directed to the City of San Diego:

**Recommendation 1.** Enact ordinances to ensure a process for the rehabilitation of the homeless.

The City's primary focus for assisting homeless off the street is the creation of "permanent supportive" and "affordable" housing. The City will continue to review and consider all available methods to address the problem of homelessness, including changes to the municipal code as applicable. At this time there is no specific municipal code change related to homelessness that is under review for implementation.

**Recommendation 2.** Provide funding to support the on-going efforts of the San Diego Regional Task Force to End Chronic Homelessness empowered in January 2004.

The City is an active partner in the development of the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. The San Diego Regional Task Force to End Homelessness is considering all fiscal resources to help meet that objective. Additionally, the City, County and other local jurisdictions will continue to pursue all federal and state grant opportunities, as well as local housing funding to address the problem. The most promising funding source at this point in time is funding from State Proposition 63, which brings millions of dollars to San Diego to address the problem of mental illness.



Community and Economic Development

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Honorable John S. Einhorn  
September 2, 2005

Thank you for your interest in needs of both the chronic and temporarily homeless populations in our region. Please feel free to contact Ernie Linares at (619) 236-6719 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



P. Lamont Ewell  
City Manager

EL/alj

cc: Ellen Oppenheim, Deputy City Manager  
Debra Fischle-Faulk, Acting Director, Community & Economic Development  
Ernie Linares, Deputy Director, Community Services Division  
Sharon Johnson, Homeless Program Manager  
San Diego County Grand Jury  
Walter F. Ekard, Chief Administrative Officer, San Diego County



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

RECEIVED

SEP 23 2005

September 20, 2005

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2005

SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY GRAND JURY

Honorable John S. Einhorn  
Presiding Judge  
San Diego County Superior Court  
Main Courthouse, Third Floor  
220 W. Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Einhorn:

Subject: 2004-2005 Grand Jury Report entitled Homeless in San Diego

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(a), (b), and (c), the City of San Diego provides the following responses to the findings and recommendations in the above-entitled Grand Jury Report:

Finding 1: The effort is underway to address the chronic homeless problem in San Diego County, the State of California and the nation.

**Agree.**

Finding 2: The San Diego Regional Task Force to End Chronic Homelessness continues to make progress on a regional plan.

**Agree.**

Finding 3: The need for services clearly exists.

**Agree.**

Finding 4: San Diego is not one of them.

**Disagree.** The City of San Diego has implemented effective programs for the homeless, including: The Winter Shelter Program; the Neil Good Day Center; and the Year-Round Family Center on Cortez Hill.

Finding 5: Legislation is necessary to provide leverage to effect a response.

**Not Applicable.** The facts cited do not apply to programs in the City's jurisdiction.



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Finding 6: A more effective process is required.

**Disagree.** While it is always possible to improve services with additional resources, the current process addresses all legal requirements.

Finding 7: Conservatorships are beneficial to the homeless and could be more effectively utilized.

**Disagree.** Conservatorship is an involuntary legal process whereby the person and his or her assets can be protected only through the removal of certain rights and liberties. Conservatorships may be beneficial to some limited number of gravely disabled homeless persons.

Finding 8: City and County run shelters are not allowed to use these behavioral rules because of legislative constraint.

**Disagree.** The City's Winter Shelter Program implements behavioral rules as deemed appropriate. For example, the City has the discretion to refuse entrance to a person who is obviously intoxicated.

Finding 9: Homeless Court supports the rehabilitation process by dismissing warrants and charges after evidence of continuing rehabilitation efforts.

**Agree.**

Finding 10: The Homeless Outreach Team is effective in dealing with those homeless willing to improve their situation.

**Agree.**

Finding 11: The Serial Inebriate Program reduces the revolving door and the large associated expense for medical care.

**Agree.**

**Recommendation 05-39:** Enact ordinances to ensure a process for the rehabilitation of the homeless.

**Response:** This response will not be implemented. The City does not contemplate the adoption of an ordinance for the rehabilitation of the homeless at this time. However, the City will consider, and adopt if deemed beneficial, future ordinances that could further the cause of reducing homelessness. The City's primary focus for assisting homeless off the street is the creation of "permanent supportive" and "affordable" housing.

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Honorable John S. Einhorn  
September 20, 2005

**Recommendation 05-40:** Provide funding to support the on-going efforts of the San Diego Regional Task Force to End Chronic Homelessness empowered in January 2004.

**Response:** This recommendation has been implemented. The City is an active partner in the development of the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. To this end, the City provided approximately \$17,000 towards the consultant hired to coordinate the plan. The San Diego Regional Task Force to End Homelessness is considering all fiscal resources to help meet that objective. Additionally, the City, County and other local jurisdictions will continue to pursue all federal and state grant opportunities, as well as local housing funding to address the problem. The most promising funding source at this point in time is funding from State Proposition 63, which brings millions of dollars to San Diego to address the problem of mental illness. Based on our ability we will continue to provide funding.

Thank you for your interest in needs of both the chronic and temporarily homeless populations in our region. Please contact Ernie Linares at (619) 236-6719 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



P. Lamont Ewell  
City Manager

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Debra Fischle-Faulk, Acting Director, Community & Economic Development  
Ernie Linares, Deputy Director, Community Services Division  
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Donna Cottingham, Citizens Assistance Manager  
San Diego County Grand Jury  
Walter F. Ekard, Chief Administrative Officer, San Diego County