



**CITY OF DANA POINT
HOMELESS TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**June 21, 2016
2:00 PM, City Hall Offices
33282 Golden Lantern
Dana Point, California 92629**

CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Scott Schoeffer, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. He asked Ursula Luna-Reynosa (Director of Community Development) to perform roll call.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jens Christy, Micahel Fox (entered at 2:17 p.m.), Heather Johnston, Mary Perdue

COUNCIL PRESENT: Scott Schoeffel

TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Palmer, Margie Wakeham, Ryan Burris

CITY STAFF LIAISONS PRESENT: Ursula Luna-Reynosa (Director of Community Development), Kelly Reenders (Economic Development Manager) Lieutenant Russ Chilton, Sergeant Rich Himmel and Deputy Chris Eiben

PUBLIC PRESENT: Three members of the public were present.

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Task Force December 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

All Members were in favor. The Minutes were approved.

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C. NEW BUSINESS

2. Mercy House – Overview of Work

Ursula Luna-Reynosa (Director of Community Development) summarized the history of the agreement between Mercy House and the City of Dana Point. She introduced Larry Hanes (Mercy House).

Larry Haynes (Mercy House) introduced Stephanie Ogas of Mercy House and stated that Ms. Ogas has been performing outreach in Dana Point and working with Family Assistance Ministries. Mr. Haynes referred to the report presented to the Homeless Task Force on October 20, 2015 and stated that Dr. Clark defined homeless as those who are sleeping in Dana Point and that the daytime population can expand. He stated that a priority of the Mercy House is populating a By-Name List that provides data on the homeless population including name, VI SPDAT (Vulnerability Index, Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) score, and length of homelessness. These factors will assist in determining the response to each individual case of the 28 reported homeless in Dana Point. He stated that at the next meeting of the Homeless Task Force, he will provide a review of the by-name list and status of those individuals and an estimated cost for a rapid rehousing program.

3. Discussion

Councilman Schoeffel stated that many do not believe him when he talks to the community about the number of homeless reported. He added that we have a good team in place and asked about other organizations in Orange County.

Larry Haynes stated that 2-1-1 OC is a County wide system used for homeless and human services support. He added that they have a greater focus on Central and North Orange County, but an agency is only as good as the participation of the regions. He added that the Friendship Shelter in Laguna Beach is a great partner. He discussed that the regions with available and new housing are seeing their homeless population homed before those outside that region.

Councilman Schoeffel agreed stating that a region must create stock or be placed at the end of the line. He added that there is a perception held of panhandlers, transients, or individuals fitting a certain look or behavior that may not fit the definition of homeless as defined by Dr. Clark.

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Larry Haynes agreed and added that the homeless as defined in the report are identified through interviews and conversations.

Michael Fox asked if there was a known number of day laborers in Dana Point.

Larry Haynes replied that he does not know the number.

Lt. Chilton stated that many of the day laborers in the City are driven into town from North County and are not homeless.

Councilman Schoeffel thanked Mr. Haynes for his report and work. He added that he has noticed an increase in transients and has received more complaints from businesses regarding homeless individuals. He asked how businesses can get the best response from law enforcement and what steps they should take when they are having an issue.

Lt. Chilton replied that communication is most important. He asked that business owners with questions and issues be referred to Police Services and that they should make their report immediately. He also suggested that they keep a Letter of Trespass on file.

Councilman Schoeffel, Lt. Chilton, and Heather Johnston discussed the best way to get this information to the business community as well as ways that business owners can be proactive and take preventative action to deter people from sleeping or loitering on near their building. It was decided that a flyer regarding business safety would be the most effective.

Ursula Luna-Reynosa stated that the Homeless Task Force was started to manage these issues, which is ultimately a law enforcement and social issue related to housing. She added that having programs and resources in place will allow the City to be more proactive.

Lt. Chilton stated that Police Services needs to be called when the incident is occurring and dispatch prioritizes the calls. He added that they must proceed with empathy and caution when addressing an issue with a homeless person. Lt. Chilton introduced Deputy Chris Eiben as the new homeless liason.

Councilman Schoeffel asked everyone to be an ambassador and share the information and guidance being provided at these meetings. He asked Ms. Johnston to pass the information to the business community. He added that the next Regular Meeting of the Homeless Task Force will be held on September 20, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

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D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Scott Schoeffel requested that Mercy House present a case study at the next meeting.

E. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Homeless Task Force at this session, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.