



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

**October 4, 2016  
2:00 PM, City Hall Offices  
33282 Golden Lantern  
Dana Point, California 92629**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Councilman Scott Schoeffler, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. He asked Shayna Sharke (Senior Administrative Assistant) to perform roll call.

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Fox, Heather Johnston, Mary Perdue, Margie Wakeham

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Scott Schoeffler

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jens Christy

**CITY STAFF LIAISONS PRESENT:** Ursula Luna-Reynosa (Director of Community Development), Lieutenant Russ Chilton, 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 June 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

All Members were in favor. The Minutes were approved.

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

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## **2. Mercy House Report**

**Ursula Luna-Reynosa** (Director of Community Development) summarized the role of Mercy House with the Homeless Task Force. She introduced Larry Hanes (Mercy House).

**Larry Haynes** (Mercy House) gave a summary of the work done by Mercy House and added that all the property owners that were identified as having concerns at the previous Homeless Task Force Meeting have been addressed. Mr. Haynes gave a presentation of data highlights and recommendations. He stated that as of September 1, 2016, 43 individuals were identified as homeless in Dana Point. Through their research, Mercy House found that the average length on the streets is 6 years in Dana Point, the median age of homeless individuals is 54, 64% are male and 37% are female. Mr. Haynes presented the recommendations of Mercy House including Permanent Supportive Housing for 28 identified individuals with a Coordinated Entry System. For 12 homeless individuals, a rapid rehousing system was recommended. One homeless individual was identified as being a candidate for a diversion approach with a Coast to Coast partnership.

## **3. Discussion**

**Stephanie Ogas** (Mercy House) addressed the numbers of individuals within the recommendations, stating that the number has increased since the evaluations were determined.

**Jeff** (Resident) asked about homeless couples and what homeless individuals do during the day.

**Larry Haynes** replied that couples tend to stay more hidden and they did not find families while performing their research.

**Stephanie Ogas** stated that homeless individuals generally sleep during the day and move during the day.

**Larry Haynes** stated that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of homeless individuals will stay homeless if they are presented with a shelter as their only option due to mental health.

**Jeff** (Resident) asked about the long and short term goals of the Homeless Task Force.

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**Ursula Luna-Reynosa** replied that the Homeless Task Force has been collecting data and assessing the homeless population to determine appropriate and effective action.

**Jeff** (Resident) stated that the police are constantly policing the homeless population and asked how to best handle on a daily basis.

**Scott Schoeffel** replied that the homeless population identified in the study by Mercy House is different than the transient population.

**Lt. Russ Chilton** stated that the homeless population that police interact with are given resources and options for diversion programs. The Homeless Liaison gets to know the population and in partnership with Mercy House, Police Services acts within the parameters of the law.

**Jeff** (Resident) asked if there is a way to remedy transient behavior.

**Larry Haynes** replied that housing works, but nothing can be done quickly.

**Margie Wakeham** stated that homelessness is all about lack of housing. When homeless individuals have a place to live much of the bad behavior will be rectified with stability. She added that the cost of homelessness is being evaluated by United Way.

**Lt. Russ Chilton** stated that with housing, additional resources need to be provided.

**Michael Fox** asked about the importance of the location of housing.

**Larry Haynes** stated that while the individuals don't get a choice in their location, having safe and dignified housing makes a difference. He added that it is difficult to leave their support system.

**Ursula Luna-Reynosa** commented that it is hard to fathom that housing would stop bad behavior, but it is something that should be tried per the recommendations from Mercy House.

**Margie Wakeham** stated that there are studies showing that housing does help.

**Ursula Luna-Reynosa** stated that it is dis-incentivizing for the City to house people from centralized systems.

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**Heather Johnston** stated that businesses are having trouble with the transient population and asked how to best handle those situations.

**Larry Haynes** addressed Ms. Luna-Reynosa's comment regarding the centralized system stating that a preferred list can be created and housing location can be based on the funding source. He addressed Ms. Johnston's question stating that it is not uncommon for the daytime and nighttime homeless population of an area to be different. He stated that before arresting these individuals, other means should be made available.

**Lt. Russ Chilton** stated that the Dana Point's deputies all have the ability to give resources. He added that while it is frustrating to residents, deputies can only write citations, but that is why these conversations are being had.

**Jeff** (Resident) stated the homeless population has altered the behavior of residents. He said that he will share what he has learned at the meeting.

**Larry Haynes** stated that now that the data is known, recommendations, costs, and implementation plans can be reviewed. The next steps is to present options City Council for direction.

**Scott Schoeffel** stated that it is up to the City Council to determine a policy regarding the homeless and transient population and the recommendation will be taken to Council with respect to all aspects and input.

**D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Scott Schoeffel** stated that the next Homeless Task Force Meeting will take place after the first of the year. He requested a draft policy incorporating the data and recommendation collected thus far.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Homeless Task Force at this session, the meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.