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800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

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May 6, 2014

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett and Supervisor Long to direct staff to analyze what steps the County could take to achieve the goal of having no child spend the night in a homeless shelter.

Recommendation: Direct staff to study the issue of children in our homeless shelter and identify steps that could be taken to achieve the goal of having no child in Ventura County spend a night in a homeless shelter.

Discussion:

Having to spend any amount of time in a homeless shelter can be a traumatic experience for anyone, and can have a particularly scarring effect on children. This past season, 18 children spent the night at the west county winter warming shelter.

Research over the last three decades has shown the harmful effects of homelessness on children overall and in particular the scarring experience of spending a night in a homeless shelter.

The RAIN Transitional living center has been a tremendous benefit for a number of children, keeping them out emergency homeless shelters, but there is still much progress to be made.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Bennett".

Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy I. Long".

Kathy I. Long
Supervisor, Third District