



**Resolution
of
The Board of Supervisors of Ventura County
ENDING HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS**

WHEREAS, PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS BY THE END OF 2015 IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) AND ITS FEDERAL PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) AND THE U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (USICH), HAVE TAKEN DECISIVE ACTION TO ACHIEVE; AND

WHEREAS, IN 2014 FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA ANNOUNCED A NEW PROGRAM, THE MAYOR'S CHALLENGE TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS, ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY LEADERS TO STEP UP AND JOIN THE CHALLENGE; AND

WHEREAS, MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES HAVE MADE EXTRAORDINARY SACRIFICES TO SERVE THIS NATION AND SHOULD NOT EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS; AND

WHEREAS, ENDING HOMELESSNESS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES NOT ONLY REDUCES INEFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES, IT ENHANCES THE ABILITY OF VETERANS TO POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND INCREASE ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY; AND

WHEREAS, THE NUMBER OF VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES ON A SINGLE NIGHT DECREASED BY 10.3 PERCENT BETWEEN 2013 AND 2014 DUE TO UNPRECEDENTED COLLABORATION AND INVESTMENT IN EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES; AND

WHEREAS, DESPITE THIS PROGRESS, THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED 49,933 HOMELESS VETERANS ON A SINGLE NIGHT IN JANUARY 2014 IN THE UNITED STATES; AND

WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO OUR LOCAL POINT IN TIME COUNT, THERE WERE 87 UNSHELTERED HOMELESS VETERANS IN VENTURA COUNTY ON A SINGLE NIGHT IN JANUARY 2015; AND

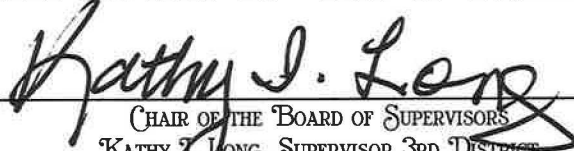
WHEREAS, ACHIEVING 'FUNCTIONAL ZERO' IS DEFINED AS ENSURING THAT EVERY VETERAN ON THE STREET OBTAINS HOUSING AND ANY NEWLY IDENTIFIED VETERAN IS HOUSED WITHIN A MAXIMUM OF 30 DAYS; AND

WHEREAS, FUNCTIONAL ZERO IS ATTAINABLE WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT THERE ARE NOT ONLY LOCALLY AVAILABLE AND UNDER-UTILIZED RESOURCES TO PROVIDE HOUSING AND SERVICES TO THIS POPULATION, BUT AN OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FROM COMPASSIONATE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WITH ADDITIONAL HOUSING AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE; AND


WHEREAS, THE VENTURA COUNTYWIDE CONTINUUM OF CARE HAS SECURED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CORPORATION FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONSULTANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO WORK WITH US IN ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN VENTURA COUNTY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM ITS SUPPORT FOR THE MAYOR'S CHALLENGE TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS AND ENCOURAGES THE MAYORS OF ALL TEN CITIES WITHIN VENTURA COUNTY DO THE SAME SO THAT NO VETERAN IN VENTURA COUNTY IS LEFT WITHOUT A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD.


PRESENTED ON THIS 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2015



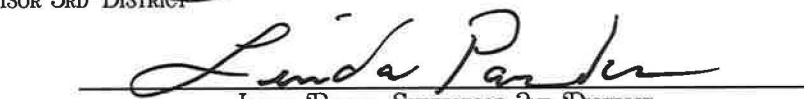
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
KATHY L. LONG, SUPERVISOR 3RD DISTRICT




STEVE BENNETT, SUPERVISOR 1ST DISTRICT



PETER C. FOY, SUPERVISOR 4TH DISTRICT



LINDA PARKS, SUPERVISOR 2ND DISTRICT



JOHN C. ZARAGOZA, SUPERVISOR 5TH DISTRICT

VC Homes 4 Hero's Fact Sheet



"As long as there are veterans or veteran family members searching for shelter on the streets...we have failed in our duty to honor the commitment of the brave men and women who chose to serve." Senator Barack Obama, 2007

Definition of Homeless

Public Law 100-77, signed into law on July 22, 1987, known as the "McKinney Act," identifies a homeless person as one who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; and who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter, a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Why are Veterans Homeless?

In addition to the complex set of factors affecting all homeless individuals – extreme shortage of affordable housing, livable income, and limited access to health care – **a large number of displaced and at-risk veterans live with lingering effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse, compounded by a lack of family and social support networks.**

Recent VA data indicates that veterans are twice as likely as other Americans to be chronically homeless. In 2005, the VA Northeast Program Evaluation Center reported that male veterans are 1.3 times more likely to become homeless than non-veteran males; and female veterans are 3.6 times more likely to become homeless than non-veteran females.

Who are Homeless Veterans?

- 26% of homeless population are veterans.
- 33% of male homeless population are veterans.
- 15% served before the Vietnam Era.
- 47% served during the Vietnam Era.
- 17% served after the Vietnam Era.
- 67% served three or more years.
- 25% have used VA homeless services.
- 89% received an honorable discharge.
- 85% completed high school/GED compared to 56% of non-veterans.
- 46% are age 45 or older compared to 20% of non-veteran homeless citizens.

How Many Homeless Veterans Are There in Ventura County?

There are approximately 100 homeless Veterans living on the streets and in the riverbeds of Ventura County.

VC Homes 4 Hero's Fact Sheet for Landlords



How Landlords Can Help

Thirteen percent of U.S. adults who are homeless have served in the military—a significant number, given that Veterans represent just 7 percent of the overall population. Ventura County is working diligently to end Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015, and you can help. If you have a rental property, consider participating in a program that has helped tens of thousands of Veterans nationwide and their families overcome the challenges of homelessness and lead independent lives.

What is HUD-VASH?

The Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program is a collaborative effort among the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and local public housing authorities. Under HUD-VASH, eligible low-income Veterans receive a Section 8 rental voucher plus case management and supportive services from VA.

What is Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)?

SSVF is intended to be used for a short-term intervention that will help veteran families keep or rapidly access permanent housing and completes the array of homeless assistance services made available through VA. Benefits include counseling, training, education assistance, direct and time-limited financial assistance, transportation, child care, rent (up to 12 months), utility payment, and other services aimed at preventing homelessness or housing very low-income eligible veterans and their families.

Benefits for Landlords

- **Guaranteed income:** See reliable monthly rental payments through the local housing authority and fair market rent on your property.
- **A say in security deposits:** Set your own amount based on local standards.
- **Annual property recertification:** Third-party inspections help to maintain quality.
- **Benefit of VA services:** Ongoing case management provides a safety net for tenants and lowers default risks.
- **A chance to honor those who served:** HUD-VAS landlords are part of the solution to ending homelessness among Veterans, who sacrificed so much to keep our country safe and free.

Fair-Market Rent for HUD-VASH in Ventura County

	<u>SRO</u>	<u>0 Bed</u>	<u>1 Bed</u>	<u>2 Bed</u>	<u>3 Bed</u>	<u>4 Bed</u>
2015	\$ 727	\$ 969	\$ 1,158	\$ 1,555	\$ 2,148	\$ 2,486
2016	\$ 737	\$ 982	\$ 1,183	\$ 1,583	\$ 2,237	\$ 2,460

Become a HUD-VASH Landlord in Five Steps

1. Contact your local public housing authority to fill out the required paperwork, secure a spot on a list of approved HUD-VASH properties, and find out more about the HUD-VASH program.
2. Schedule a HUD Housing Quality Standards inspection to make sure your property is up to code.
3. Find eligible Veterans by promoting your property as one that accepts HUD-VASH vouchers or by contacting the VA homeless coordinator in your area (va.gov/directory).
4. Screen tenants and have them approved by the housing authority.
5. Have your tenant review and sign your lease. Initial lease terms are generally 12 months and can't be broken without the owner's approval.

Get Ahead of Your Housing Inspection

Make sure your unit has:

- Working smoke alarms(s)
- Proper ventilation in bathrooms (window or fan)
- Connected utilities
- A functional stove and refrigerator
- A window in every bedroom that can stay open without props
- A working water heater discharge line and pop/relief valves
- Handrails for steps
- Secure railings for porches and balconies

Make sure your unit does not have:

- Broken or missing locks
- Broken or missing windows
- Bugs or vermin
- Tripping hazards on the floor
- Exposed electrical wiring
- Chipping or peeling paint inside or outside

