



City Of Camarillo

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Office of the City Manager
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RECEIVED

AUG 04 2010

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

July 30, 2010

H.G. Kelley, Foreman
Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#3751
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Grand Jury Report: "Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?"

Dear Foreman Kelley:

As requested in your letter of May 21, 2010, enclosed is the City of Camarillo's response to recommendations R-01, R-02, R-03, R-05, R-06 and R-07 in the Ventura County 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report, "Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?"

If we can be of further assistance, please give me a call at (805) 388-5307.

Sincerely,

Jerry Bankston
City Manager

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Kevin J. McGee, Presiding Judge
Camarillo City Council



City Of Camarillo

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Office of the City Council
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July 29, 2010

Ventura County Grand Jury
800 So. Victoria Avenue, L#3751
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Ventura County 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report: *Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?*

The City of Camarillo is in receipt of your letter dated May 21, 2010, requesting the City of Camarillo's response to the recommendations in the Ventura County 2009-2010 Grand Jury report, *Where are You Sleeping Tonight?* The following is our response to page 13, Recommendations (R-01 thru R-07).

➤ **R-01: *Both public agencies and non-profit organizations should be adding low-income rental housing. Other entities should be encouraged to do so by governmental agencies.***
(C-01 thru C-03)

For over 30 years, Camarillo has worked with non-profits, as well as for-profit agencies, in seeing that housing opportunities are made available to assist the low-, very low-, and extremely low-income Camarillo residents. Since 1979, the city has assisted the development or purchase of 826 affordable apartments in addition to the development of other market-rate apartments. The rental units are available for homeless persons, as well as those at risk of becoming homeless. This includes the 90-unit Ponderosa Village apartments built by a private developer using Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) financing which was completed in 1979, and provides housing for very low-income seniors. The city also worked with Cabrillo Economic Development, a local non-profit housing corporation, in building 23 very low-income family units on land leased from the City of Camarillo. Camarillo assisted the Area Housing Authority (AHA) in building the 27-unit Ellis Terrace family apartments. The city used Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to purchase the site, which was leased to AHA for the recently-completed 13-unit Meadowbrook family apartments. Camarillo also assisted the AHA in the purchase of the 305-unit Mira Vista Village senior apartments, and as a result of the purchase, they will remain permanently affordable. Private developers have also included low-income units in their apartments as part of the city's inclusionary housing policy.

➤ **R-02: *The Cities should take a leading role in coordinating services and resources directed at eliminating or minimizing homelessness in their communities through marshaling and motivating volunteers to assist with programs for the homeless. (C-10)***

Though Ventura County continues to be the public social provider, Camarillo's continuum of care supports a range of activities, which includes supporting organizations, such as RAIN, Food Share, and Turning Point Foundation, with homeless programs, as well as supporting other programs for the homeless and those persons at risk of becoming homeless. According to the recent homeless census by the Homeless and Housing Coalition, there are 13 homeless persons in Camarillo. The city's continuum of care efforts make it possible for Camarillo to provide services to residents who are at-risk or are homeless.

Organizations, such as the Work Force Housing Task Force, that are made up of representatives from the House Farmworkers Task Force, the city, League of Women Voters, Chamber of Commerce, faith-based organizations, and the home-grown organization, "Serving Our Brothers and Sisters In Need," are examples of local volunteer organizations trying to eradicate homelessness. It should also be noted that RAIN began in Camarillo. The city assisted in the renovation of the present RAIN facility with CDBG funds and by donating the commercial kitchen from the local International House of Pancakes (IHOP) restaurant as part of the previous Carmen Drive interchange improvements when IHOP moved to its current location

Cities in Ventura County are not the social service providers. That responsibility has been delegated to the County of Ventura. What the city can do is make sure that local residents receive the services for which they qualify and require. This is accomplished at City Hall or over the phone when residents request help.

Perhaps an example of the city's efforts to assist the homeless was when city staff helped a lady who was living in her car with her dog. City staff first had contact with her when she wanted to purchase a home – after all, the homes were for low-income people. One-on-one consultation with her brought her to realize that an apartment might be a better first step in moving out of her car. She was able to move into one of the very low-income apartments that the city had assisted in being built. She now takes advantage of the Food Share program, as well as being a regular at the "Serving Our Brothers and Sisters In Need" program that offers a hot meal and sacks of food donated by the local Trader Joe's Market. The lady still checks in with staff when she has problems or concerns; however, she now lives in an apartment rather than her car.

- **R-03: *The County and the Cities should make an effort to ensure that the original goal of the Strategy, to reduce homelessness within the County by 50% during the first five years (2008-2012), is accomplished. (C-10 thru C-12)***

Camarillo continues to implement its continuum of care for local residents, which also assists in reducing homelessness within the county. In addition, to assist in making it easier to provide emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities, the city is amending its Municipal Code to remove the requirement for a conditional use permit. Moreover, the city continues to assist the RAIN transitional housing facility that began in Camarillo. It should be noted that Camarillo did not require a discretionary permit when RAIN came to Camarillo. Instead, the community embraced the facility, and the residents volunteered to assist the transitional housing facility.

- **R-05: *Innovative and effective programs developed by Cities and other organizations should be documented and replicated in other areas of the County that lack such programs. (C-17)***

Camarillo is part of the group that formed the "Work Force Housing Task Force" committee that is part of the countywide House Farm Workers organization. What sets Camarillo's program apart is that the members believe that *all* low-income workers, not solely farm workers, need assistance. The local committee also recognizes that there are many families at risk of homelessness and that there is a need for more affordable housing. The "Work Force Housing Task Force" has taken policy positions on the Camarillo Housing Element and has made presentations on these policy positions to the City Council, local community groups, and churches regarding the need for additional work force housing.

The best effort that should be identified is the "Serving Our Brothers and Sisters In Need" program that began about a year ago in Camarillo. It follows the example of a similar program in Santa Paula. The group identified the need and was formed without any assistance from the city. It solely followed the Camarillo principles of serving those in need. A potluck dinner is provided by local residents and served in a communal setting. Local markets donate food that the participants can take home and be assured of having food each day.

- **R-06: *Cities that have not pursued grant funds or have not been successful in receiving them, should aggressively seek such funds. (C-18)***

Overall, Camarillo has been successful in receiving certain funds to support the city's continuum of care. There have been times when the city was unsuccessful with the applications, but that has not deterred the city from submitting other applications for financial assistance to build affordable housing. This includes the annual CDBG funds, which assist in the acquisition of sites for affordable housing, as well as tax credit and bond financing which assist in the construction of apartments. Camarillo has layered financing, including state tax credit and CDBG funds, in building and purchasing affordable housing. Recently, the City of Camarillo, in partnership with the Area Housing Authority, used layered financing for the construction of the 13-unit Meadowbrook family

apartments and the acquisition of the 305-unit Mira Vista Village apartments. The city also supported the tax credit application that was used to build the 34-unit Courtyard family apartments in Village at the Park.

➤ **R-07: *The County and all Cities should continue to recognize and publicly thank the various nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and other volunteer organizations for their ongoing and highly effective support of the homeless population in Ventura County. (C-19)***

The City of Camarillo City Council on July 14, 2010, gave a proclamation to "Serving Our Brothers and Sisters In Need" organization in recognition of their first year of serving the homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless population. Community efforts to curb homelessness, as well as efforts by non-profit and faith-based organizations which support the homeless population, are important to the city. One way in which Camarillo publicly recognizes the organizations that provide the continuum of care providers is by funding them with CDBG and Community Service Grant funds. Each year, the City Council has a meeting in March, in which the organizations are invited to speak about their accomplishments and request financial assistance from the city. The meeting is televised via a local cable television channel throughout the city, so that citizens have an opportunity to hear about the organizations. At that time, the City Council also publicly comments on their programs and thanks them for their efforts.

In conclusion, the City of Camarillo wishes to thank the Grand Jury for its concern with homelessness and for its recognition of Camarillo's efforts to ensure that homelessness does not become pervasive in the community.

Sincerely,



Kevin Kildee
Mayor

Enclosure: Certificate of Recognition

cc: Honorable K.J. McGee, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, Ventura County

City of Camarillo

Las Personas Son La Ciudad

Certificate of Recognition

presented to

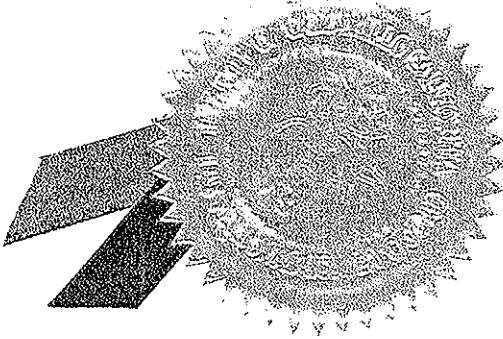
Many Meals of Camarillo

First Anniversary

Many Meals of Camarillo started as a small group of residents interested in providing balanced and nutritious meals to those in need within the community, including the unemployed, homeless, those earning less than a living wage, those who cannot make their income stretch to the end of the month, and even those who are lonely and wish to share a meal with others. Many Meals of Camarillo served its first potluck meal in July of 2009 to thirty-one people. Today, Many Meals has over 160 volunteers and serves over 100 people each week, with plans to add a second dinner each week beginning in September 2010.

The City Council of the City of Camarillo congratulates Many Meals of Camarillo on its First Anniversary and wishes it continued success in the years to come.

Presented this 14th day of July 2010.



ATTEST:

Jeffrie Madland
Jeffrie Madland, City Clerk

Kevin B. Kildee
Kevin B. Kildee, Mayor

Michael D. Morgan
Michael D. Morgan, Vice Mayor

Charlotte Craven
Charlotte Craven, Councilmember

Jeanette L. McDonald
Jeanette L. McDonald, Councilmember

Don Waunch
Don Waunch, Councilmember