



CITY OF FILLMORE

CENTRAL PARK PLAZA

250 Central Avenue

Fillmore, California 93015-1907

(805) 524-3701 • FAX (805) 524-5707

Mayor

August 25, 2010

Honorable Kevin J. McGee, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
P.O. Box 6489
Ventura, CA 93006

RE: Response to the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report entitled "*Where are You Sleeping Tonight?*"

Dear Judge McGee:

Thank you for your correspondence dated May 21, 2010 and the copy of the Ventura County Grand Jury report titled, *Where are You Sleeping Tonight?* Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(c), and Penal Code Sections 933.05(a) through (c), this letter serves as the City of Fillmore's response to the finding and recommendations found in the above-referenced report.

Findings

The City concurs with the findings contained in the report.

Recommendations

Per your correspondence, the City Council is required to respond to Recommendation No's. 01 through 07 in the report. Each Recommendation is include below with a corresponding response.

R-01. *Both public agencies and nonprofit organizations should be adding low-income rental housing. Other entities should be encouraged to do so by government agencies.*

City Response:

The City and Redevelopment Agency actively implements practices which support the Report's Recommendation R-01. The City/Agency has added low-income and very-low income rental housing to its stock since 2008. The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation's Central Station Townhome project located on Mountain View and Main Street added twenty-nine (29) affordable units including twenty-one (21) apartments. This project received financial contributions in excess of \$1.7 million from the Redevelopment Agency to provide both rental and for-sale housing opportunities for farmworkers, extremely-low, very-low and low income families. Also, the Redevelopment Agency purchased a foreclosed condominium in 2009 which is being renovated and will soon be available for sale to a low-income buyer.

Additionally, a recently completed eight-unit apartment complex on Central Avenue, Maggie Apartments, set aside one (1) rental unit restricted to very-low income households. This is in addition to the City's approval of the following projects:

- the ten-unit Sespe Court project, approved in 2007, will provide one (1) for-sale unit restricted to low income households; additionally this project received approval for two (2) "granny flat" units which are restricted for rental to very-low income households;
- the eighteen-unit Shah Apartment project, approved in 2008, will provide three (3) restricted rental units (one (1) unit restricted to very-low income for a period of 55 years and two (2) units restricted to low income residents for a period of 30 years); and
- the six-unit Green Apartment project, approved in 2006, will provide one (1) restricted rental unit.

The approval of these projects illustrates the City/Agency's commitment to providing very-low and low-income rental and for sale housing opportunities; however, due to economic conditions beyond the City/Agency's control, applicants have not moved forward with construction of these approved dwelling units.

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.*

City Response:

The City will continue to support existing regional efforts; it encourages citizen to volunteer in community-serving efforts; and, has an active volunteer population involved in activities ranging from bike path clean up groups to the City's Vision 2020 program, which includes an active Civic Pride Committee. In addition to the City's volunteer citizen groups, the City's Community Development Department staff is also familiar with area homeless resources, which enables staff to refer individuals with needs or questions to organizations such as the RAIN Transitional Living Center, and the United Way of Ventura County.

However, the number of homeless people (five) in Fillmore limits volunteer efforts focused exclusively on homeless programs as well as the number of inquiries for services received by City staff.

R-03. *The County and the Cities should make every 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.*

City Response:

The City fully agrees with R-03 and has made diligent efforts and progress with in approving development projects which provide affordable rental and homeownership housing opportunities.

The 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness goals, published in 2007, included the addition of 300 permanent affordable housing units throughout the County, with 10.7 units (rounded up to 11 units) allocated to Fillmore. Since 2008, the City of Fillmore/Fillmore Redevelopment Agency has approved or constructed projects which include a total of thirty-three (33) rental or for-sale housing units restricted to affordable income levels.

Project	Units
Central Station (Cabrillo)	21 rental (constructed)
Central Station (Cabrillo)	8 for-sale (constructed)
Maggie Apartment	1 rental (constructed)
Shah Apartments	3 rental (approved)
Total:	33 units

Additionally, the City/Agency approved one (1) affordability-restricted unit in 2007 and one (1) unit in 2006 prior to the Strategy's publication.

The 2007 Homeless Count conducted by the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition (VCHHC) found five (5) homeless individuals in Fillmore; in 2008 a survey of individuals in shelters was conducted, however, a Homeless Survey was not; in 2009, four (4) homeless individuals were identified, and in 2010, five (5) homeless individuals were identified within the City.

The City and Redevelopment Agency continue to support and facilitate project applicants who come forward with development proposals which offer affordable housing opportunities, and the City's Redevelopment Project Area also requires that all projects within the Project Area set aside fifteen percent (15%) of its units for low income households to meet the needs of the low-income population.

R-04. *Cities without a homelessness task force, Fillmore, Moorpark, and Port Hueneme, should consider establishing one.*

City Response:

The City agrees with the concept of a homelessness taskforce and the benefits a taskforce can offer to homeless populations; however, according to the 2010 Homeless Count conducted by VCHHC, the City of Fillmore has five (5) homeless people out of a population of estimated at

15,787 (2010 estimate). This number of homeless individuals, coupled with limited staffing and budget constraints, creates challenges to establishing a formal homeless taskforce. If there is a significant rise in the number of homeless people, the City will consider joining a neighboring task force to create a more comprehensive approach.

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.*

City Response:

The City agrees with the recommendation of replicating successful programs developed by other Cities and organizations, and will consider effective ways to accomplish this in light of the number of homeless and budget constraints.

R-06. *Cities that have not pursued grant funds, or have been unsuccessful in receiving them, should aggressively seek such funds.*

City Response:

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation received \$240,000 in HOME grant funds through the County which were used for the construction of the Central Station Townhomes project in Fillmore. The City will consider the recommendation of aggressively seeking grants funds. However, in light of the number of homeless in Fillmore, and budget constraints that may limit the City's ability to provide matching funds for grant awards, preparing competitive grant applications may be difficult.

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

City Response:

The City is pleased to recognize FOODSHARE & Deacon Ray Rodriguez with Saint Francis of Assisi Church for providing food pantry services, the Lynn Edmonds and the One-Step a la Vez Center for assisting with referral services for accommodations, direct counseling services and food acquisition for homeless youth, Max Pina with North Fillmore Neighborhood Police Storefront who provides Brown Bag food services on a bi-weekly basis, and the United Way of Ventura County for their efforts. These local organizations and citizen groups are important to the Fillmore community and are commended for their service of the local homeless population.

Grand Jury Report
August 25, 2010
Page 5

Should you have any questions concerning the City's responses to the recommendations put forward in the Grand Jury's report, please contact City Manager Yvonne Quiring at (805) 524-3701.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Y. Quiring', written in a cursive style.

Yvonne Quiring, City Manager
City of Fillmore

C.C.: Ventura County Grand Jury
800 S. Victoria Avenue, L#3751
Ventura, CA 93009

Fillmore City Council