



MOORPARK

799 Moorpark Avenue Moorpark, California 93021 (805) 517-6200

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 21, 2010

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

Dear Foreman Kelley and Ventura County Grand Jury:

The City of Moorpark is in receipt of the Ventura County Grand Jury's Final Report "Where are you sleeping tonight?" issued May 20, 2010. In the Grand Jury's May 21, 2010 transmittal letter, the City was requested to state whether we concur, concur in part, or disagree with the Grand Jury's Findings and, if we disagree, explain why. Further, for each applicable recommendation, state our intent concerning implementation.

FINDINGS

With respect to findings F-01 to F-42 the City of Moorpark concurs with the Grand Jury's findings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-1 – Both public agencies and nonprofit organizations should be adding low-income rental housing. Other entities should be encouraged to do so by governmental agencies.

The City has previously implemented this recommendation as evidenced by the 252 units of low-income rental housing built in the City since 2004. The City also falls within the jurisdiction of the Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura (AHA) who provides 30 rental units for extremely-low and very-low income elderly individuals and 131 Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers that serve 290 individuals in our City. Along with the measures that have already been taken, there are plans for sixty (60) additional units to be built in the City within the next five (5) years including twenty units to be built by the AHA on land provided to them by the City. The City has also adopted new density bonus language that is consistent with the State density bonus requirements and goes one step further by providing a 100% density bonus for projects that are 100% affordable.

R-2 – 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.

The City will continue to support the existing regional efforts directed at eliminating or minimizing homelessness. The City has supported the RAIN program for the past three fiscal years with its CDBG grant funds and is willing to continue to support these and other efforts through future allocations of its CDBG grant funds and other funds.

R-3 – 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.

The City contributes funds to the homeless service organizations in the County as a way of supporting the Strategy's goal of reducing homelessness by 50% by 2012.

R-4 – Cities without a homelessness task force, Fillmore, Moorpark, and Port Hueneme, should consider establishing one.

The City recognizes the importance of homelessness and has assigned a Standing Committee of the City Council to periodically review the situation. A homelessness task force for the City is not recommended since our homeless problem at this time is minimal. The Homeless Count identified 7 homeless persons in Moorpark in 2009 and only 1 homeless person in 2010. The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition agrees with the City's assessment of our situation and suggests that if our homeless numbers begin to increase in the future it would be more efficient for the City to join with a neighboring task force to create a more comprehensive approach.

R-5 – 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.

The City has always monitored these developments and will continue to do so.

R-6 – Cities that have not pursued grant funds, or have been unsuccessful in receiving them, should aggressively seek such funds.

The City pursues CDBG funds to assist non-profit organizations within the City with helping the homeless and providing eviction prevention assistance to support those at-risk of becoming homeless and will support regional efforts to do so.

R-7 – 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. The City has and will continue to recognize and publicly thank the various non-profit organizations, faith based organizations, and other

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volunteer groups for their ongoing and highly effective support of the homeless population in Ventura County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Parvin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Janice Parvin
Mayor

cc: Honorable City Council
Honorable Kevin J. McGee, Presiding Judge
Steven Kueny, City Manager
Hugh R. Riley, Assistant City Manager
David Moe, Redevelopment Manager