



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
305 West Third Street • Oxnard, CA 93030 • (805) 385-7430 • Fax (805) 385-7595

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AUG 30 2010

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VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

AUG 26 2010

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE

August 13, 2010

VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

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

**RE: City of Oxnard Response to: "Where are you sleeping tonight?"**

The City of Oxnard has received a copy of the Grand Jury Report entitled, "Where are you sleeping tonight?" and has prepared the following responses to Recommendations R-01, R-02, R-03, R-05, R-06, and R-07.

**Recommendations**

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

**Response:** The City of Oxnard requires developers that are constructing new housing projects of more than five (5) units to make at least twenty percent (20%) affordable for low-income families/persons.

**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.

**Response:** The City of Oxnard has just begun its Homeless Educational Campaign on May 6, 2010. The purpose of the Educational Campaign is to both educate the community on the perils of homelessness and to solicit volunteers to assist local nonprofits, faith-based and governmental agencies with providing services and/or viable solutions that would help end or drastically reduce homelessness.

**R-03.** The County and 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 (2008-12), is accomplished.

**Response:** Since the adoption and implementation of the Strategy, the City of Oxnard has seen a drop of twenty-four percent (24%). This was accomplished by working with developers to create new housing units for individuals and families in the low-income bracket, and also by working with transitional housing providers, faith-based

organizations and local citizens to find suitable transitional and permanent housing for families.

**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.

**Response:** The City of Oxnard's educational campaign can be replicated in other Cities and can be tailored to suit the needs and desires of each City. The theme of the City's campaign is "The Many Faces of Homelessness." The goal is to increase awareness of homelessness in our community while educating the public on the myths and needs of homeless persons. Additionally, there is a call to action for people to become involved in eradicating homelessness in the city of Oxnard.

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

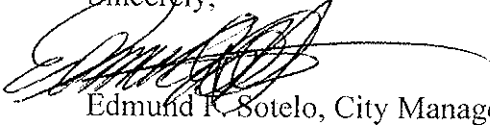
**Response:** The City of Oxnard, by virtue of being a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement jurisdiction, receives a HUD formula allotment of Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds annually. Additionally, the City is the only city within Ventura County that has its own Continuum of Care (CoC) grant, which is made up of nine (9) local nonprofit, faith based and government partners: United Way of Ventura County, Lighthouse Women and Children's Mission, Turning Point Foundation, Ventura County Human Services Agency, Ventura County Behavioral Health, Ventura County RAIN Project, Khepera House, Community Action of Ventura County and Project Understanding. Finally, the City also received a three-year grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to administer the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re Housing Program (HPRP). The County Human Services Agency currently administers this program for the City.

**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.

**Response:** The City of Oxnard recognizes local nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and other volunteer groups for their ongoing and highly effective support of the homeless population in Ventura County by providing Commendations at City Council meetings.

If there are any additional questions regarding our responses please do not hesitate to contact our Homeless Program Coordinator, Will Reed, at 385.8044 or via email at [will.reed@ci.oxnard.ca.us](mailto:will.reed@ci.oxnard.ca.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edmund R. Sotelo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edmund R. Sotelo, City Manager

Cc: William E. Wilkins  
Norma Owens  
Will Reed