



"Citrus Capital of the World"

# City of Santa Paula

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RECEIVED

February 22, 2011

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VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

Mr. Don Cody  
Mr. Louis Cunningham  
Ventura County Grand Jury  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Response to the Grand Jury 2009-10 Report-Where are you sleeping tonight?

Dear Mr. Cody and Mr. Cunningham,

The City appreciates the efforts of the 2009-2010 Grand Jury in completing the 2009-10 "Where are you sleeping tonight?" report on the effectiveness of the county wide efforts to end homelessness in Ventura County.

In response to the recommendations included in the published report, the City of Santa Paula formally submits the following responses:

- R-01- Historically, the City of Santa Paula has financially supported and approved housing projects that provide housing opportunities to lower-income residents, especially rental housing opportunities. These have most recently included the Paseo Santa Barbara project (59 very low- and 31 low-income rental units); Habitat for Humanity projects (6 low-income ownership units); Santa Paula Housing Authority project (20 low-income senior apartment units); Santa Paula Housing Authority project (40 very low-income apartment units/ 20 designated for special needs individuals). The City of Santa Paula was also one of the first in the County to adopt an inclusionary housing ordinance in 2005, which requires developer of new market rate housing projects to set-aside at least 10 to 15% of the units for very low- to moderate-income housing or pay a in-lieu fee to fund the creation of affordable housing.

In addition, the Santa Paula Redevelopment Agency has supported low income benefit projects with over \$1.2 million in grant funding for the creation of lower-income housing in Santa Paula.

- R-02- The City of Santa Paula's Police Department regularly visits areas within the City known to periodically house homeless individuals. During these visits, officers are accompanied by representatives of County of Ventura social service agencies, private and non-profit social service organizations. The goal of these regular visits is to primarily offer various social services to individuals, as well as evaluate any existing health and safety concerns.

In addition, the City of Santa Paula has established partnerships that address homelessness issues including the Police/ Clergy Council, Spirit of Santa Paula, and several social service organizations through the Police Department's Weed and Seed program. Each of the local programs help to either advocate for or provide resources and outreach services to homeless individuals.

- R-03- As an active community participant in the 10-Year Strategy to end Homelessness, the City of Santa Paula continues to assist county and local community partners to support and provide resources and direct services to the community's homeless individuals with the ultimate goal to reduce homelessness within the City of Santa Paula.

- R-05- As previously in R-02 above, the City of Santa Paula takes an active role in supporting the many local and regional programs and services that assist homeless individuals in the community. The Police/ Clergy Council provides support services to a number of groups including the homeless population. Services include support for a local soup kitchen and warming shelter, and providing other social support services such as assisting with regular employment and living arrangements. The Weed and Seed program provides a wide variety of services through partnerships with both public and private social agencies. These services are provided directly through the Las Piedras Police Storefront (underserved area of the community) and include services to the homeless populations. Richard's House, a local temporary warming shelter was opened during the winter of 2009, and now has the capacity of serving up to 28 clients per night. In 2010, Richard's House expanded its services to provide a drop in center during day hours to provide social services to clients.

In addition, the City's draft Housing Element includes a program to implement Senate Bill 2 related to emergency shelters, transitional and supportive housing (proposed land use zoning designation where shelters are a permitted use). The City has proposed that the commercial/light industrial zones be designated for such a land use to better accommodate this type of housing.

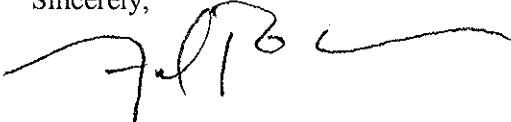
- R-06- The City of Santa will continue to regularly review and seek grant opportunities for any homelessness related municipal services and programs. To date, the City has not been aware of any grant programs targeting municipal homelessness services or programs.

During the past 26 years, the City of Santa Paula has supported and approved the annual allocation of federal Community Development Block Grants to public service programs that target local homelessness prevention and direct services programs.

- R-07- As previously mentioned, the City of Santa Paula will continue to support the many regional and local public and private organizations that work diligently to improve the lives of homeless individuals by providing resources and direct social services to end homelessness .

If there are any questions or if further clarification is needed, please contact Elisabeth Amador, Assistant to the City Manager at (805) 525-0626 or by e-mail at [eamador@spcity.org](mailto:eamador@spcity.org).

Sincerely,



Fred Robinson,  
Mayor

cc: Jaime Fontes, City Manager  
City Council