



August 5, 2020

The Honorable Michael Carrozzo
Superior Court Presiding Judge
County of Santa Barbara
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Grand Jury Report – Homelessness in Santa Barbara County

Dear Judge Carrozzo:

The 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury recently released its report entitled *Homelessness in Santa Barbara County*. The City of Lompoc (Lompoc) is named as an affected agency and is required to respond to applicable findings and recommendations within 90 days of receipt of the report.

Following are Lompoc's responses to the individual applicable findings and recommendations in accordance with California Penal Code, Section 933.05(b)(2.).

Finding 1:

There is a need for greater transparency, understanding and accountability of homeless related expenditures and the results.

Response:

Disagree wholly. The City already reports on homeless related expenditures and the results.

Recommendation 1b:

That the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria publish an annual report of their homeless related expenditures and outcomes.

Response:

Has been implemented. The City of Lompoc reports annually in the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The CAPER is prepared by the City's Community Development Department and submitted to HUD by September 30th for the prior fiscal year. Public notice of a 15-day public review and comment period is published in the Lompoc Record, the City of Lompoc website, press-releases, local TAP-TV Community Education Channel and social media platforms, in both English and Spanish. Prior year CAPERs are available on the City's website. The CAPER has a section specific to evaluating the jurisdiction progress

in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through outreach, assessment, addressing emergency shelter for, and transitional housing for homeless persons, as well as helping low-income individuals and families to avoid becoming homeless. While the CAPER is specific to the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that the City of Lompoc receives an entitlement grant of annually, staff also report on other fiscal efforts made to meet the specific objectives regarding homelessness in this section. For example, the City of Lompoc provided \$16,000 annually for 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 of General Fund monies to fund the Countywide collaborative on homelessness, commonly referred to as Home for Good. In addition to that, the Lompoc City Council allocated an additional \$25,000 of General Fund monies to further efforts of its Human Services Commission towards public service activities annually, funding 109 shelter beds for both emergency and transitional shelter in the City. Reported further in the 2018-19 CAPER is the City's use of State HOME funds to house 17 homeless families. The City of Lompoc will continue to report homeless related expenditures and outcomes in the HUD CAPER on an annual basis.

Finding 3:

State and federal funding that is granted to Santa Barbara County does not sufficiently support the mandate for housing the homeless.

Response:

Agree.

Recommendation 3:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria identify funding mechanisms, including but not limited to, bond issues, dedicated taxing, a designated budgetary item and strong philanthropic partnerships, for housing the homeless.

Response:

Has been implemented. The City Community Development Department acts as the Local Review Agency for State Tax Credit applications. The City also is a member of the Countywide HOME Consortium and allocates its HOME funds to Tenant Based Rental Assistance and low-income housing development. A 15-unit housing project was recently awarded HOME funding for development of permanent housing units for formerly homeless persons. The City's Human Services Commission conducts an annual fund raising campaign, and uses those funds to assist a variety of public service activities in Lompoc, including emergency homeless shelter, homeless services and transitional housing.

Finding 4:

Elected City and County leaders have not exhibited aggressive leadership in determining the availability of sites in their jurisdictions for housing the homeless.

Response:

Agree.

Recommendation 4:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria designate and facilitate building of housing for the homeless on sites within their jurisdictions.

Response:

Will not be implemented. The City of Lompoc has limited resources with regards to sites for building of housing for the homeless. There are small infill sites throughout Lompoc, but developers have not found it feasible to purchase and develop such sites. Over the years, the City has facilitated the development and preservation of over 380 multi-family affordable housing units, of which over 200 are restricted to very-low income persons and 30 are specifically for homeless persons. However, the City has not specifically identified sites for building housing for the homeless. The City does not feel that this has decreased the number of units the City has been able to contribute to housing the County's homeless, since as recently as this year an additional 15 units have been approved by the City for development. If the City were able to expand its borders to allow for new housing development, then that could leave some feasible sites within the City for development of housing specifically for homeless, but given current land and development site resources available within the City, designating such sites for any one group of people could not be achieved.

Finding 5:

A greater effort is needed to inform and include the public regarding the needs of the homeless for housing and services and how it can appropriately fit into neighborhoods.

Response:

Disagree wholly. The effort to inform the public through the City's processes already occurs.

Recommendation 5:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria be more proactive in informing the public of the needs of the homeless for housing and services and how it can appropriately fit into neighborhoods by holding forums and conducting tours of existing facilities to educate residents whose neighborhoods are proposed for the development of projects for the homeless.

Response 5:

Has been implemented. The City currently has various platforms and opportunities to educate the public and to receive input from the public regarding the need for housing and services for the homeless. These include: 1) the annual CDBG needs assessment meeting and surveys, and public hearings for funding CDBG activities, where homeless services are discussed, as well as any "un-met" needs; 2) Planning Commission meetings, where the Commission, the public, and developers discuss homeless housing projects and how those projects fit within the community, and where developers and service providers often

educate the community and the Commission regarding those housing developments; and 3) City Council meetings, where the community has had many discussions over the years regarding homeless services, homeless needs, and projects for the homeless.

Finding 8:

All overnight emergency shelters are at capacity year-round, there are not enough day centers and there are currently no Navigation Centers in Santa Barbara County.

Response:

Disagree partially. While many overnight emergency shelters are at capacity during the year, there appear to be beds available. The challenge is the type of beds available, many families do not want to be separated, or homeless individuals are suffering from other conditions that limit them from fitting well within a traditional shelter system.

Recommendation 8a:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria work together to create overnight emergency shelters commensurate with their homeless populations.

Response:

Has been implemented. While the City of Lompoc's overnight emergency shelter is not located within the City limits, it serves the City's homeless population. At times it does experience being at capacity, but when a person is experiencing homelessness and is willing to seek shelter and comply with shelter requirements, the Bridgehouse has never turned anybody away. When the City worked with various service providers including the Bridgehouse Shelter during the Santa Ynez Riverbed Clean-up efforts, and the Triage Center, every person who was ready to enter shelter was provided a bed. The City agrees that the number of homelessness in Lompoc (211 – 2020 PIT Count) exceeds the number of beds available at the Bridgehouse shelter, not all homeless seek shelter at an emergency shelter, some are vehicle homeless and are in need of a safe parking program, others are street homeless and will never be able to comply with a shelter environment and need immediate housing with wrap around services (permanent supportive housing), others are experiencing homeless for a short period and only need assistance to find a rental unit and pay a deposit, which the City has offered and funded in the past, and now the County Housing Authority offers funding with HOME funds.

Recommendation 8b:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria work together to create day centers commensurate with their homeless populations.

Response:

Will not be implemented. The City of Lompoc does not have a social services department or division of its organization, nor does it have the resources to create such division of governmental services. The City would support a program or center of this type if an agency came forward with such project in an appropriately zoned area of the City. The

City is not opposed to a day center for homeless, but the City does not have the resources beyond what it already provides in fiscal support to homeless service efforts.

Recommendation 8c:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria fund and expedite the development and opening of more shelters incorporating the Navigation Center concept.

Response:

Will not be implemented. The City of Lompoc's homeless population comprises 11% of the Countywide homeless. The City already has and provides fiscal support for one shelter. Development and opening of more than the one shelter is not feasible for the City of Lompoc.

Finding 9:

Currently, several California cities are providing temporary homeless facilities by utilizing alternative cost-effective forms of housing such as high-performance tension fabric structures, tiny houses, and modular housing.

Response:

Agree.

Recommendation 9:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria undertake feasibility studies and develop plans for using alternate types of cost-effective forms of housing.

Response:

Requires further analysis. The City of Lompoc will be updating its Housing Element in the next year, and that update will analyze various plans and process improvements that will streamline housing approvals and accelerate housing production. The City was awarded funding from the State of California to assist with those efforts including facilitating housing affordability, particularly for lower- and moderate-income households and promoting development consistent with the State Planning Priorities (Government Code Section 65041.1). Those efforts could include identifying other types of cost-effective forms of housing. The City has already approved many accessory dwelling unit constructions in the City per State efforts towards increasing the number of housing units in the State.

Finding 10:

Currently, in some California cities, large health insurers are utilizing their tax credits to fund housing facilities for the chronically homeless.

Response:

Agree.

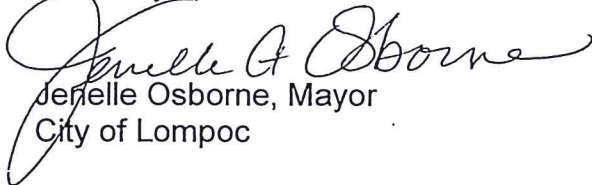
Recommendation 10:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Carpinteria contact major health care insurers in their jurisdiction and encourage them to seek partnerships to support the construction of housing for the chronically homeless of Santa Barbara County.

Response:

Will not be implemented. The City does not have the capacity to take on these efforts as an independent entity. The City is open to collaborating and participating in a countywide effort through the Continuum of Care or other efforts to encourage such construction in the County.

Sincerely,



Jennifer A. Osborne, Mayor
City of Lompoc

- c: Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

- c: Honorable Lompoc Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members
Jim Throop, City Manager