



February 4, 2022

Via Regular Mail and Email: sbcgj@sbcourts.org

The Honorable Gustavo Lavayen
Superior Court Presiding Judge
312 East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Re: Grand Jury Report – Keys to Housing the Homeless in Santa Barbara County

Dear Judge Lavayen:

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury recently released its report entitled *The Keys to Housing the Homeless 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 Sections 933 and 933.05.

Finding 1:

During the COVID-19 pandemic Project Roomkey demonstrated the value of providing rooms, with appropriate services, for the vulnerable elderly homeless with underlying health conditions.

Response:

Agree.

Recommendation 1:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and all city councils within the County establish programs similar to Roomkey in both North and South County to continue to provide rooms, with appropriate services, for vulnerable elderly homeless with underlying health conditions.

Response:

Has been implemented. Lompoc has participated in HOME ARP Housing Development meetings with all cities in the county, with the County of Santa Barbara as the lead agency, to establish a Roomkey program to include appropriate services for vulnerable elderly homeless with underlying health conditions in North County (in Lompoc at Homekey Studios where 14 offices were

converted to residential units and 1 for administration and services and in Santa Maria at a Motel 6 where 75 rooms will be converted to residential units and 6 for administration and services) and South County (in Goleta at Super 8 Motel for 60 rooms to be converted to residential units and 5 for administration and services).

Lompoc is part of the HOME Consortium of which the County of Santa Barbara is the lead agency. To provide the recommended rooms and services, the County will be applying for \$3,950,383 in HOME ARPA Funding on January 31, 2022. Lompoc's share of the total allocation is \$501,486 and is expected to go toward the countywide Roomkey program, which will also assist in satisfying the Lompoc's participation in the adopted countywide Homelessness Plan.

Finding 2:

Few hotels and motels throughout Santa Barbara County were willing to participate in the Project Roomkey.

Response:

Agree.

Recommendation 2:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors instruct the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department to form an alliance with all city councils within the County to develop a roster of hotels and motels willing to participate in a Roomkey-type program.

Response:

Has been implemented. Lompoc Community Development Division staff have attended HOME ARP collaborative meetings where a site inventory was collected and where Lompoc provided available sites.

Finding 3:

Buildings for Homekey conversion have been difficult to locate and acquire.

Response:

Agree.

Recommendation 3:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and all city councils within the County identify possible Homekey sites including government owned properties in each jurisdiction.

Response:

Has been implemented through the Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness adopted by the Lompoc City Council in May of 2021.

February 4, 2022

Grand Jury Report – Keys to Housing The Homeless in Santa Barbara County

Page 3 of 3

Finding 5:

Both Project Roomkey and Project Homekey are reliant on short-term or one-time funding from the State and Federal governments.

Response:

Agree.

Recommendation 5:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and all city councils within the County develop and implement a plan for funding Roomkey and Homekey-type programs.

Response 5:

Has been implemented. In May of 2021, the Lompoc City Council adopted the countywide Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness. The County of Santa Barbara is the lead agency. The plan includes development and implementation of Roomkey and Homekey programs.

The County will be applying for \$3,950,383 in HOME ARP funding on January 31, 2022. Lompoc's portion of the total allocation is \$501,486 and is expected to be its contribution toward the Countywide Roomkey program with the County of Santa Barbara acting as the lead agency.

Sincerely,



Jenelle Osborne, Mayor
City of Lompoc

cc: Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
sbcgj@sbcourts.org

cc: Honorable Lompoc Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members
Dean Albro, City Manger