



CITY OF SANTA MARIA
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January 7, 2022

Presiding Judge Gustavo Lavayen
312 East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

RE: Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report regarding *Keys to Housing the Homeless*

Honorable Gustavo Lavayen:

Enclosed please find the City of Santa Maria's response to the Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury Report regarding *Keys to Housing the Homeless* for your review. The Santa Maria City Council approved the response at its regular meeting of January 4, 2022, and authorized the Mayor to sign and transmit the response on the City's behalf.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (805) 925-0951, Ext 2305.

Sincerely,

M. Beth Cleary, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

Enclosure: Copy of Response

pc: sbcgj@sbcourts.org



January 4, 2022

Presiding Judge Gustavo Lavayen
312 East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

**SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO 2021 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GRAND JURY
REPORT – KEYS TO HOUSING THE HOMELESS DATED NOVEMBER
19, 2021**

Dear Honorable Judge Lavayen,

The City of Santa Maria is pleased to provide the following requested responses to the above-referenced report for Findings and Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 5, within 90 days of report issuance. Please note the following responses:

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: Will not be implemented. Hotels and motels in Santa Maria are either used for tourists and visitors, or for housing seasonal farmworkers. As of the date of the Grand Jury report, no hotel/motel operators have expressed interest in participating. Resources for supportive services in Santa Maria are also limited. However, if there is future interest by a property owner to convert a motel/hotel to permanent and supportive housing, the City will review the proposal for General Plan, zoning, building, and fire code compliance.

Finding 2

Few hotels and motels throughout Santa Barbara County were willing to participate in 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: Will not be implemented. See response to Recommendation 1. Also, City staff already provides information and participates collaboratively in the County's COVID-19 homeless task force meetings, Elected Leaders Forum, Continuum of Care, and other County-driven committees.

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: Will not be implemented. See responses to Recommendations 1 and 2. Government-owned properties are not locations of existing hotels and motels and therefore, would not be identified as Homekey sites.

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: Will not be implemented. See responses to Recommendations 1 and 2. Without interest from property owners, hotel/motel operators, and housing developers, Santa Maria will not commit limited staff resources to develop a plan for funding.



ALICE M. PATINO
Mayor