



April 11, 2022

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Presiding Judge Gustavo Lavayen
312 Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report Titled "The Keys to Housing the Homeless"

Honorable Judge Lavayen,

The City of Solvang respectfully submits response to the Grand Jury Report titled **The Keys to Housing the Homeless**.

City of Solvang Response:

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. City of Solvang is a small community with limited resources. The City lost more in revenue during COVID-19 than it received from American Rescue Plan funding. The City's economy and well-being fully depends on the tourism industry. The hotel rooms are essential for generating revenues to pay for essential services including public safety.

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.

City of Solvang

1644 Oak Street ■ Solvang, CA. 93463 ■ Telephone (805) 688-5575 ■ FAX (805) 686-2049

Response: Will not be implemented. The City of Solvang is a small community with limited resources. The City lost more in revenue during COVID-19 than it received from American Rescue Plan funding. The City's economy and well-being fully depends on the tourism industry. The hotel rooms are essential for generating revenues to pay for essential services including public safety.

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. The City of Solvang is almost at full build out and is focusing on meeting existing State housing requirements.

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. Without interest from property owners/ hotel owners, etc. the City of Solvang will not commit to funding such program.

Sincerely,



Xenia Bradford
City Manager, City of Solvang