

RESOLUTION NO. 10-098
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT ON
"HOMELESSNESS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY"

WHEREAS, pursuant to Penal Code section 933, a public agency which receives a Grand Jury Report addressing aspects of the public agency's operations, must comment on the Report's findings and recommendations contained in the Report in writing within ninety days to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court with a copy to the Foreperson of the Grand Jury; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Paso Robles has received and reviewed the 2009-2010 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Report, dated April 27, 2010, entitled "Homelessness in San Luis Obispo County: Are We Solving the Problem?" and prepared a response to the report.


NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS

Section 1. The City Council of Paso Robles approves and authorizes the City Council's response to the 2009-2010 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Report entitled "Homelessness in San Luis Obispo County: Are We Solving the Problem?" a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein.

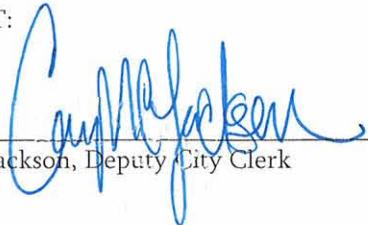
Section 2. The City Council of Paso Robles directs the City Clerk to forward the City Council's Grand Jury Report response to the Presiding Judge of the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court and to the foreperson of the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 20th day of July, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES: Strong, Gilman, Steinbeck, Hamon, Picanco
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:



Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:


Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

RESPONSE OF THE PASO ROBLES CITY COUNCIL TO
GRAND JURY REPORT REGARDING
HOMELESSNESS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

INTRODUCTION:

The 2009-2010 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury prepared a report titled, "Homelessness in San Luis Obispo County: Are We Solving the Problem?" The Paso Robles City Council is required to respond to Findings 5, 11, 12 & 13 and Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5 & 8. Consistent with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code, the Paso Robles City Council is responding to each required finding and recommendation.

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

Finding #5:

In Paso Robles, which has a large homeless population, there is no shelter.

Response to Finding #5:

Since 2001, the City has provided grants of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds averaging \$21,000 per year to Transitional Food and Shelter, which operates a "Motel Voucher" program to provide shelter for homeless that are too ill to stay at a regular homeless shelter. The table at the end of this response lists the amounts of the annual grants.

Since 2005, the City has provided grants of CDBG funds averaging \$4,000 per year to the El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO) to operate a homeless shelter in Atascadero. The City supports this shelter as a number of its clients come from Paso Robles.

Additionally, the North County Women's Resource Center established a domestic violence shelter, which is a type of homeless shelter, in Paso Robles in the mid 1990's.

In more than 25 years, no party has filed an application to develop a homeless shelter in Paso Robles.

Finding #11:

The widely endorsed *Path to a Home: San Luis Obispo Countywide 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* has been accepted, but not "adopted", by cities and the county.

Response to Finding #11:

At its meeting of February 3, 2009, the Paso Robles City Council received a presentation on the "Path to a Home" document. The Council took action to (1) receive the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness; (2) Endorse the guiding principles; and (3) designate a City Councilmember for ongoing County-wide collaboration. Mayor Picanco was selected as the designated representative for the City of Paso Robles.

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RESPONSE OF THE PASO ROBLES CITY COUNCIL TO
GRAND JURY REPORT REGARDING
HOMELESSNESS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

The “Path to a Home” plan was developed by a county-wide committee. However, the process by which that plan was prepared is not appropriate for “adoption” by local governments.

An appropriate process for local adoption would include the following:

- *Direction from the local elected body regarding plan contents and objectives;*
- *Full analysis of the compatibility of a draft plan with a local jurisdiction’s General Plan and other adopted policy and land use documents;*
- *An analysis of the fiscal impacts of the recommended actions;*
- *Environmental review of the draft plan;*
- *Public workshops and hearings.*

None of the above was proposed or occurred with the Path to a Home plan.

Finding #12:

The county, with support from cities and private groups, wants to build a homeless service campus in San Luis Obispo.

Response to Finding #12:

As noted in the City’s Response to Recommendation #5, below, the City has supported the operation of the Maxine Lewis Shelter, Prado Day Center, ECHO Shelter, and Transitional Food and Shelter’s Motel Voucher Program. Finding #12 and Recommendation #8 appear to propose that the City support shelters in both San Luis Obispo and in Paso Robles. The City does not have resource capacity to also provide increased level of support to a shelter that will predominantly serve homeless located 30 miles away and in another jurisdiction.

Finding #13:

The need for low cost housing in the county substantially exceeds supply.

Response to Finding #13:

This has been an ongoing challenge in the County. The City continues to address this need by providing support for affordable housing projects using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, federal Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) funds, state CalHome funds, and Redevelopment Low and Moderate Income Housing (LMIH) Funds. Since 1988, the City has supported the following affordable housing projects:

- *Housing Rehabilitation Loans: Between 1988 and 1991, the City used nearly \$1 million in CDBG funds and \$50,000 in LMIH funds to provide loans and grants to rehabilitate housing occupied by low income households. A total of 82 units were rehabilitated under this program*

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GRAND JURY REPORT REGARDING
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- Los Robles Terrace: In 1991, a grant of \$119,730 in LMIH Funds assisted the development of Los Robles Terrace, a 40 unit apartment complex for low- and very low-income elderly and physically-disabled persons at 2840 Spring Street.
- Disaster Assistance Loan: In 1995, a loan of \$10,000 in LMIH funds was made to a low income homeowner to repair damage to the owner's home at 915 Olive Street from a mudslide caused by heavy rains.
- New Self-Help Single Family Homes: Between 1995 and 1997, a total of \$200,600 in CDBG funds (\$160,000 of the City's allotment plus \$40,600 from the countywide Special Urban Projects Fund) were used to assist 33 low income homeowners purchase self-help homes in the Spring Meadows Tract developed by Peoples' Self-Help Housing Corp. on the east side of Airport Road, south of Scott Street.
- First-Time Homebuyers Assistance: In 1997, 2000, and 2001, the City used a total of \$855,000 in CDBG, LMIH, HOME, and CalHome funds to make low-interest, deferred-payment second trust deed loans for low income first-time homebuyers. From these efforts, 25 homes were purchased in Paso Robles.
- Habitat for Humanity: In 2002, a grant of \$35,000 in LMIH funds assisted development of three single family homes for low income households at 2939, 2947 and 2949 Vine Street.
- Creekside Gardens Apartments: In 2005, a grant of \$635,000 in LMIH funds assisted development of 29 unit low income senior apartment project at 401 Oak Hill Road.
- Canyon Creek Apartments: In 2006, a grant of \$559,000 in LMIH funds assisted development of a 68 unit low income apartment project at 400 Oak Hill Road.
- Chet Dotter Senior Housing: In 2008, a forgivable loan of \$1.745 million in LMIH funds assisted development of a 40 unit low income senior apartment project at 801 – 28th Street.
- Hidden Creek Village: In 2010, a forgivable loan of \$1 million in LMIH funds was made to assist the Housing Authority of the City of San Luis Obispo develop an 81 unit low income family apartment project at 80 S. River Road. Construction was commenced on this project in July 2010.
- Oak Park Redevelopment: In July 2010, the Redevelopment Agency reserved \$1.325 million to assist the Housing Authority of the City of Paso Robles develop Phase One of a project to replace the existing 148 units in Oak Park Public Housing with 302 new units. The existing units are 70 years old. Phase One will remove 53 units and build 100 new units. The applicants applied for federal tax credit financing in July 2010.

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GRAND JURY REPORT REGARDING
HOMELESSNESS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES

Recommendation # 1:

The county and all the county's incorporated cities should “adopt” and begin to implement the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Response to Recommendation #1:

This recommendation is not practical or reasonable. With declining revenues, the City has cut spending by 25 percent and is using reserve funds to provide only a minimum level of services; millions more need to be cut in order to operate within available revenues. There is no capacity to pursue new endeavors in the next 3-5 years.

Recommendation # 2:

The county and all the incorporated cities should establish and fund a line item in their budgets specifically supporting services, including more housing for homeless persons.

Response to Recommendation #2:

See response to Recommendation #1.

Recommendation # 3:

A full-time Homes Services Coordinator (a senior official who is more than the currently contemplated HSOC “Executive Director”) should oversee the implementation of the ten year plan. This person should be supplied with a staff, including a grant writer.

Response to Recommendation #3:

See response to Recommendation #1.

Recommendation # 5:

The Homeless Services Campus should be built as soon as possible. The coordinator and appropriate staff from DSS, County Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol should also be stationed there. These professionals need to meet with the homeless where they eat and sleep. Each department should have one or more staff assigned to the Prado Day Center on a regular basis until the campus is occupied.

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GRAND JURY REPORT REGARDING
HOMELESSNESS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Appropriate arrangements should be made to address issues of client privacy and confidentiality as required by law, but such requirements should not provide a rationale for not delivering services.

Response to Recommendation #5:

When the City became entitled to receive CDBG funds directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1994, it entered into a cooperation agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo to waive its individual entitlement so that an urban county might be formed to benefit the entire county. The formation of an urban county entitled the urban county to approximately 15% more CDBG funds than each participating jurisdiction would individually receive had it pursued CDBG funds on its own. These additional funds were allocated to a "Special Urban Projects Fund" in which funds could be awarded to any participating jurisdiction with a project that benefitted persons beyond the jurisdiction's boundaries. Since 1996, with the implicit agreement of the City of Paso Robles via its annual resolutions supporting the countywide Annual Action Plan, all moneys in the Special Urban Project Fund (approximately \$150,000 per year) have been spent to support the Maxine Lewis Shelter and Prado Day Center in San Luis Obispo. That is, the City has purposefully foregone applying to the Special Urban Projects for any CDBG funds for other projects so that county-wide homeless services might be provided.

Also, see response to Recommendation #1.

Recommendation # 8:

Non-profit organizations, including churches, and the City of Paso Robles should establish shelter and meal serving program for people who are homeless.

Response to Recommendation #8:

Since 1996, the City Council has allocated Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds to assist a variety of homeless services, which have included shelters and food. The table on the following page shows the programs and amounts of assistance.

City of Paso Robles' Use of CDBG Funds to Assist Homeless Services

Non-Profit Organization/Program	Prior to 2001	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Transitional Food & Shelter's Motel Voucher Program		24,000	24,000	24,000	20,000	24,000	20,503	21,000	21,373	19,881	11,614	210,371
North County Women's Shelter: Paso Robles Domestic Violence Shelter	1,360 (in 1996) 15,000 (in 2000)	10,000					5,900	17,000				49,260
El Camino Homeless Organization's Shelter Operations						2,000		4,000	5,000	4,800	5,400	21,200
CAPSLO's Homeless Outreach Coordinator									11,124			11,124
Second Baptist Church's Christ Kitchen Meal program for the homeless		36,150						11,106			5,400	52,656
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry	20,000 (in 1999)				4,650	5,350					2,300	32,300
Food Bank and Harvest Bag		31,000					800				2,300	34,100
Total	36,360	101,150	24,000	24,000	24,650	31,350	27,203	53,106	37,497	24,681	27,014	411,011