



From the Office of the Mayor

Mary Ann Reiss
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September 7, 2010

Presiding Judge Charles S. Crandall
Superior Court of California
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Re: Grand Jury Report entitled "Homelessness in San Luis Obispo County: Are We Solving the Problem?"

Dear Judge Crandall:

This letter constitutes the response of the City of Pismo Beach to the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury report entitled "Homelessness in San Luis Obispo County: Are We Solving the Problem?" (hereinafter the "Report") This response is submitted in compliance with Penal Code Section 933(c). A copy of this response is concurrently being transmitted to the Grand Jury.

The Report sets forth thirteen findings, and nine recommendations. The City of Pismo Beach has been required only to respond to Findings 6, 11, 12 and 13, and Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Findings

6. The South County People's Kitchen, in Grover Beach, serves lunch daily and the recently created Five Cities Homeless Coalition wants to have a comprehensive day center for the population they serve. As presently contemplated, the vision for that facility does not include overnight sleeping accommodations.

Response: Agree.

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: Agree.

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

Response: Agree.

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

Response: Agree.

Recommendations:

The Grand Jury recommends that:

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

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The City does not believe there is a functional difference between its "acceptance" of the Plan, and an "adoption" of the Plan, so long as the City undertakes steps set forth in the Plan, and so long as funding is available to the City.

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: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Without an identified source of funding for such services, the City has no plans to directly undertake such services directly. However the City intends to continue its participation in county-wide efforts to provide homeless support services if funding is available.

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: The recommendation has been partially implemented. The Coordinator has been hired on a part-time basis, and the City has contributed financially to the position.

4. 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. 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: The recommendation has been partially implemented. The County of San Luis Obispo has provided land for the campus, and the City of San Luis Obispo planning commission and the airport land commission have approved the use of the land. The City intends to continue participating in county-wide efforts to provide homeless support services on the site if funding is available.

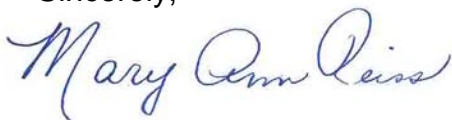
5. The county, south county incorporated cities and appropriate non-profit groups should vigorously pursue joint efforts to build and operate a facility that provides both day services and night time shelter for homeless persons in the five cities region.

Response: The recommendation is currently being partially implemented. The City has been participating in the Klaproad Task Force to determine appropriate targeting of endowment funds for these purposes.

6. Cities in south county, the county itself and The Five Cities Homeless Coalition should begin to work with local churches and service groups to provide temporary shelter until the facility is operative. ECHO in Atascadero provides an excellent model.

Response: The recommendation is currently being partially implemented. The City has been participating in the Klaproad Task Force to determine appropriate targeting of endowment funds for these purposes

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Ann Reiss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Ann Reiss, Mayor
City of Pismo Beach

cc: San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 4910
San Luis Obispo, CA 93402