

August 9, 2017

Jim Mellander, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091
ctaadmin@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

Re: **Responses to Report No. 1707, entitled "Homelessness in the Cities."**

Mr. Mellander:

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1707, "Homelessness in the Cities." This response was reviewed and authorized by the City Council at the September August 8, 2017 City Council Meeting.

GRAND JURY FINDINGS

Finding # 1: "CORE teams are most likely to be the first point of entry for the homes into the County's Coordinated Entry System."

Response: The City believes this finding is accurate.

Finding #2: "CORE teams can successfully identify a homeless individual in need of physical or mental health services."

Response: The City believes this finding is accurate.

Finding #3: "CORE teams have the resources to identify if there are vacant shelter beds available in the County."

Response: The City does not have firsthand knowledge of the facts related to this finding, but is hopeful that this finding is accurate.

Finding #4: "CORE teams are equipped and have the authorization to transport homeless individuals to a medical facility or to a homeless shelter."

Response: The City does not have firsthand knowledge of the facts related to this finding, but is hopeful that this finding is accurate.

Finding #5: "CORE teams build trust between the homeless and police departments."

Response: The City agrees with this finding.

Finding #9: "The cities of Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg and Walnut Creek, which are the CBDG entitlement cities, are the only cities in Contra Costa County that have an approved written

homeless plan to end or reduce homelessness in their respective jurisdictions.”

Response: The City does not have firsthand knowledge of the facts related to this finding, but believes that this finding to be accurate.

Finding #10: “The city appears to be in compliance with the California Housing Accountability Act.”

Response: The City agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation # 1: “The city should consider establishing CORE teams either by partnering with one or more cities in the region or by funding its own team.”

Response: The City believes that it is important to state that social services are primarily the function of counties in California, not cities. With that said, the City has been coordinating with County staff and CORE representatives and Oakley Police Officers have already participated in discussions held by CORE representatives with homeless in Oakley. Unlike counties, cities do not have a funding source for social service activities.

Recommendation # 2: “The city should consider providing incentives for developers to construct housing for the extremely low income, very low income and homeless populations.”

Response: The City of Oakley is one of the few communities in the State that has in the past more than met its affordable housing requirements. The City’s financial resources are very limited and it is unlikely that cash incentives would be deemed higher than the many other priorities competing for those financial resources. The City will consider other non-cash incentives that may be helpful with this effort.

Recommendation # 3: “The city should consider using Successor Agency funds, CDBG and other federal housing funds, impact fees and city general funds to assist in funding housing for the extremely low income, very low income and homeless populations.”

Response: As mentioned above, the City done not intend on implementing this recommendation.

Recommendation # 4: “The city should consider adopting a five-year comprehensive homeless plan, as soon as possible with a target date of January 1, 2019, to reduce the homeless population in the City.”

Response: The City does not intend on implementing this recommendation.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury’s recent Report No. 1707. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact me directly at (925) 625-7025 or at montgomery@ci.oakley.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Bryan H. Montgomery
City Manager