



August 18, 2017

Jim Mellander  
Foreperson, Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury 725 Court Street  
P.O. Box 431  
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

**Re: Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1707- Homelessness in the Cities**

Dear 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 a duly noticed City Council meeting on August 8, 2017.

The report ordered the City of Orinda to respond to Findings #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10, and Recommendations #1, 2, 3, and 4. Our responses are below.

**Findings**

**F1: CORE Teams are most likely to be the first point of entry for the homeless into the County's Coordinated Entry System.**

***Orinda agrees with this finding.***

**F2: CORE teams can successfully identify a homeless individual in need of physical or mental health services.**

***Orinda agrees with this finding.***

**F3: CORE teams have the resources to identify if there are vacant shelter beds available in the County.**

***Orinda agrees with this finding.***

**F4: CORE teams are equipped and have the authorization to transport**

homeless individuals to a medical facility or to a homeless shelter.

***Orinda agrees with this finding.***

**F5:** CORE teams build trust between the homeless and police departments.

***Orinda agrees with this finding.***

**F9:** The cities of Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg, and Walnut Creek, which are the CDBG 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.

***Orinda agrees with this finding.***

**F10:** The City appears to be in compliance with the California Housing Accountability Act.

***Orinda agrees with this finding.***

### **Recommendations**

**R1:** The City should consider establishing CORE teams either by partnering with one or more cities in the region or by funding its own team.

***The recommendation will not be implemented. The 2015, 2016 and 2017 "Point in Time" (PIT) counts identified no homeless persons within our city limits. If the homeless population increases in the future, the Orinda Police Department might consider partnering with an adjacent or nearby jurisdiction to establish a CORE team.***

**R2:** The City should consider providing incentives for developers to construct housing for the extremely low income, very low income, and homeless populations.

***The recommendation has been implemented. The City offers the following incentives:***

- 1. Section 17.4.31 of the Orinda Municipal Code contains provisions for an Affordable Housing Incentive Program and Density Bonus.***
- 2. Technical assistance to organizations that can develop or preserve lower-cost housing. For instance, the City worked successfully with***

***Eden Housing to develop 66 units affordable to low- and very low-income seniors.***

- 3. Participation in Contra Costa County's housing rehabilitation program.***
- 4. Annual meetings with at least one affordable housing developer or representative of an affordable housing advocacy group to discuss housing issues, needs and opportunities in Orinda.***
- 5. In 2015, the City revised the use permit procedures applicable in the Residential Medium-Density (RM) District in order to streamline the permitting process.***

**R3:** 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.

***The recommendation has been implemented. The City of Orinda will continue to assist in funding affordable housing as funds become available.***

**R4:** 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.

***The recommendation will not be implemented. With no homeless population, it is not cost effective to prepare a comprehensive homeless plan. If the City of Orinda develops a significant homeless population at some point in the future, a comprehensive homeless plan would be considered at that time.***

We hope this letter is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,



Eve Phillips Mayor