



City of Long Beach
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Date: May 14, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilwoman Suzie Price, Third District *SP*
Vice Mayor Dee Andrews, Sixth District *DA*
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, Seventh District *R*

Subject: Receive and File Report from CSULB Study on Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council is requesting to receive and file a report requested by Councilwoman Price from the California State University Long Beach Anthropology Department on their recent research and findings on the topic of Long Beach homelessness and outreach efforts.

INTRODUCTION:

In 2017 the California State University Long Beach (CSULB) Anthropology Department worked with the Third District Council Office to commit to a project studying one of the most difficult questions we seek to solve when trying to address homelessness.

Graduate and undergraduate anthropology students conducted community-based research to study the experiences and approaches of the Homeless Services Outreach Team (commonly known as the "Street Team") as they interact with people experiencing homelessness. To understand the complexity of homelessness and how the City of Long Beach addresses the issue, students enrolled in two courses—one was designed to train students in ethnographic research methods, while the other provided articles and policy reports to contextualize the issue locally. Before the class started and students entered the field, Dr. Karen Quintiliani and Mitra Baghdadi met with Councilwoman Price and spent 3 months working with the Street Team, attending outreach network group meetings, and accompanying outreach operations with the various Street Team members.

The Anthropology Department utilized students to develop questions to interview individuals experiencing homelessness, during joining the Long Beach Health Department's Homeless Outreach Teams. The project sought to study what leads



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homeless individuals to refuse the services that are available to them that would play a role in getting them off the streets or addressing the cause or any symptoms of their homelessness.

Over the course of 2 years they were able to develop a research plan, conduct the outreach, elicit responses to their questionnaire, evaluate the data collected, and publish their findings. On April 19, 2019 their report was presented to the Southwestern Anthropology Association's 90th Annual Conference in Garden Grove, CA.

Because homelessness and the associated impacts continue to be a major issue for the City of Long Beach it would be useful for the City Council to receive a report on the findings of this study. The City Council is fortunate to have a tremendous research partner in CSU, Long Beach and their findings and recommendations serve as a solid and data-based foundation from which future policy setting efforts can begin.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.