

## City of Long Beach---Shelter in Crisis

On March 1, 2013 the winter shelter which is now, and has serviced from 100 to 140 adults nightly is set to close. It is scheduled to close at the on-set of the California's usual heavy rain season; which, coupled with the cold wind-chill cycle, should not be the experience of any human being living outside, on the street.

A week ago when each of you received an email from me, I had spoken, by phone with Robert Probst, interim CEO of the Long Beach "Rescue" Mission in forming him of my desire to provide volunteers, who could replace paid staff, to keep the shelter from closing in March. We had a tentative verbal agreement, that volunteers could in fact replace all functions where paid staff was needed to cover vacant positions, servicing the winter shelter. But, as of today, he has had a change of mind and the building that is now hosting the winter shelter is now, not available. In his words, the building will in fact close for more "strategically planned use. I have left a message as to what strategic plan would be more important than keeping humans out of the cold and rain. I am yet waiting on a reply call from him.

During a phone call to the Rescue Mission this morning, a representative informed me that the facility after closing will be used to store supplies and equipment. Yes, they will escort the humans out of the only protection they have had from the elements and store objects.

### **Opinion:**

The Long Beach is now failing in its first mission; that of rescuing humans.

This is not respectful of the legacy of Jim Lewis in acquiring this facility and opening it to fulfill the mission of rescuing, not objects, but humans from hunger and homelessness..

As of this morning, I have left a message with Susan Price, the new Director/ Administrator of Health and "Human" Services regarding use of the Multi-Services Center, for temporary shelter for Homeless Humans; when the winter shelter closes And presently, I await a response from her or her assigns.

### **Immediate needs to continue needed, and execute a Year-Round Shelter @ MSC:**

- >Volunteers
- > Sleeping Cots
- > Blankets
- > Kitchen Facility to prepare and serve food.

**>>>>NO MONEY IS NEEDED TO CONTINUE THIS NEEDED SERVICE>>>>>.**

The Swarm Group has 45 businesses in Long Beach and Seal Beach who will provide all food. - FREE. Long Beach has a long standing relationship will Food Finders.

**Questions:**

Why is there yet no provision in place for homeless humans to be serviced on an annual basis; when the city of Long Beach has been the recipient of federal funding to address this matter for a number of years; with a commitment to “end homelessness in (4) years? Is a year-round shelter is by definition continued care for chronic homelessness?

Why, given the fact that buildings assisting the homeless is “allowed by right”, are citizens not being informed that the homeless have a “right” to be assisted in any neighborhood as allowed by the federal government and/or the California Housing Element?

Homelessness in the city of Long Beach is not district specific; it is city wide.

**District # \_\_\_\_\_ Ready to Go Volunteer List**

1. You; as an Elected City Agent
2. Shirley J. Broussard. I am, working for you; and I have my 20 volunteers.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

**Volunteers on Stand by:**

- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Please complete this list and mail to Post Office Box 33, Seal Beach, CA 90740 or Shirley Broussard will personally pick it up. Or send by email to Swarm @ [swarm4nometess@gmail.com](mailto:swarm4nometess@gmail.com). A volunteer information night is being planned.

The homelessness of SKID ROW in Los Angeles is a major problem. The homelessness of Long Beach is yet only a challenge. Yes, We Can, meet this challenge.

**NOW.....GO LONG BEACH!**