

Attachment**CITY OF LONG BEACH**

HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2525 GRAND AVENUE • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815 • (562) 570-4003

October 19, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

SUBJECT: Recommendations From the Homeless Services Advisory Committee on
the 10-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

The City of Long Beach will be initiating a citywide 10-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. This project is an important component in strengthening the existing Homeless Continuum of Care System, by promoting a citywide planning process that will develop long-range goals for services and housing to homeless individuals and families. A 10-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to continue future funding for homeless services.

BACKGROUND

A 10-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness (Plan) is designed to address the critical problem of homelessness and all related issues through a coordinated community-based process of identifying needs and building a system of care to address those needs. The Plan is predicated on the understanding that homelessness is not caused merely by a lack of shelter, but involves a variety of underlying, unmet needs (i.e., physical, economic, and social). It is imperative that the Plan be supported by a community-wide public and private strategy with a goal of ending homelessness that is based upon the successful implementation of three major community-coordinated actions: (1) building infrastructure; (2) strengthening an existing continuum of care system; and (3) planning for sustainable outcomes.

One of the primary goals of an adopted Plan is preventing homelessness for persons living in poverty (particularly among those who are already clients of other social service systems and public institutions such as hospitals, jails, and foster care). The Plan will also develop permanent housing options that improve cost-efficiency and ensure long-term stability by improving the availability of affordable housing, creating a livable wage, and establishing necessary support services. To ensure these goals, the Plan will enable the collection and analysis of accurate data in order to improve system-wide

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

October 19, 2004

Page 2

effectiveness in preventing and ending homelessness, and identify the most effective strategies for each subgroup of the homeless population.

Successfully implementing a long-range, community-based, coordinated action plan in Long Beach is important. Although current homeless services programs end homelessness for people every day, they are soon replaced by other persons entering into homelessness. Expected results from conducting a coordinated long-range plan include:

- Significant cost savings from reduced usage of publicly-funded services (e.g., jails and emergency room services);
- Cleaner, safer streets within residential, business, and recreational areas;
- An increase to 80 percent or greater in the number of homeless individuals and families maintaining affordable housing; and
- Better tracking of outcomes and resource allocation.

This matter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna F. Gwin and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on October 8, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on October 19, 2004 to allow DHHS to begin the 10-Year Strategic Plan planning process immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT

An outside contractor (The Institute for Urban Research and Development) has been retained to facilitate the development of the Plan. The funding source for this contract is Community Development Block Grant monies for the consultant. There will be no impact on the General Fund.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. Receive and file the Homeless Assessment Report;
2. Refer the 10-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness project to the City Manager for development.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion L. Nguli

Marion Nguli, Chair
Homeless Services Advisory Committee