

July 24, 2012
City of Long Beach
Housing Element

First Ten; Now Five Year Plan >>>>>>> **END HOMELESSNESS**

Facts:

Within this city , on any given day or night, there yet too many persons, human beings, who are walking, wandering, sitting; sleeping in open and un-disclosed places, homeless, dirty, and hungry . They are not animals, they are humans. Presently, this city is in need of other processes to carry out its responsibility being called upon by the required Housing Element mandate and its responsibility as part of the "ONE NATION UNDER GOD".

I have visited many of the existing centers and become aware of the existing resources that are in place to complete this city's objective of ending homelessness in the next five years. It is my belief, that many of these organizations are redundant; some are not as resourceful as they once might have been **OR THOUGHT TO BE**. Some are stalemated by unchecked non productivity, and misplaced energy. Some are just not doing the job. If changes are not made, your homeless population will **increase** in five years.

Recommendations: A RAISE FOR THE HOMELESS STARTS WITH CUTTING THE WASTE

1. A **reassessment** of job function within each department where people are **being paid** to assist the city in its objective of ending homelessness.
2. Identify and **eliminate** redundant work functions.
3. Find out who in each department are **no longer suited** to work with the homeless due to fear of homeless persons, bored with the job, or just working with the homeless to get paid.
4. Identify those **outreach departments** that are in place to have direct contact with homeless individuals and assign each outreach person, 10 people to whom they are responsible to meet with daily in process to get off of the street in a reasonable time frame.
5. Offer early retirements to some people whose **hearts** are no longer in the homeless field of work. **If their heart is not in this work, the work won't get done.**
6. **Require** that the **winter shelter** stays open; or the city should sponsor one that can.
Homeless people are still homeless in the spring, summer and fall.
7. The multi-services center and the shelter should be in the same building; for cost and efficiency.
8. Require **more** of those agencies that receive city funding to participate in **hands-on outreach**.
9. Retrain each paid and non paid volunteer in a mind-set of **daily** homeless crisis **intervention**.
10. Adopt a **crisis mindset** to get people off of the street. These **are not NORMAL** times!
11. Create black-out spaces in the city, **against** skid row development and infiltration.

**It is easy to say; "I know we can and should do more", while doing nothing more.
The homeless cannot afford "do more" talk. They need this raise to start now.**

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