



Homelessness Concerns along the Santa Ana River

Community & Economic Development

Joint City Council Meeting with the City of Jurupa Valley

February 25, 2016

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CITY OF RIVERSIDE RESOURCES

- Comprehensive Community Livability Program
- Hulen Place Access Center
 1. Homeless Outreach Team
 2. Health to Hope Medical Clinic
 3. Pet Kennel
 4. Community Shelter
 5. "The Place" Safe Haven
 6. Respite Care



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COMMUNITY LIVABILITY TASK FORCE PLAN

1. Adopted April 1, 2014, to address criminal nuisance activities that impact the City's quality of life
2. Majority of issues identified are related to homelessness
3. Resulted in increased communication, collaboration and coordination between:
 - a. Homeless Outreach Team
 - b. Riverside Police Department
 - c. Public Works Department
 - d. Code Enforcement
4. Next Steps:
 - a. Regional Discussion and Plan



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RIVER-BOTTOM CHALLENGES

- 1. Safety Concerns** – makeshift security systems
- 2. Lead Time** - coordination requires advance planning
- 3. Crossing the Line** - Homeless encampments shift back and forth from City to County



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RIVER-BOTTOM EFFORTS

1. Homeless Outreach, Mental Health, Riverside Police Department: identified 16 homeless encampments and engaged them to inform them of the dangers of El Niño and offer immediate assistance
2. 12 abandoned encampments were cleared by Public Works, Code Enforcement, Riverside Police Department, Homeless Outreach, and Mental Health
3. Through these combined efforts: 9 individuals vacated the river-bottom and were linked to a social service
4. Point-in-Time Count on January 26, 2016 identified 35 individuals at the river-bottom



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RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

1. Create a collaborative and ongoing strategy to address homeless along the river-bottom
 - a. Identify and build a dedicated river-bottom team
 - b. Increase frequency of clean-up and outreach efforts
 - c. Communicate when a river-bottom operation is coordinated
 - d. Establish a solid partnership with Probation and Parole
 - e. Demonstrate a “same team mentality” among partner organizations
2. Conduct a community needs assessment to identify what resources are needed to address homelessness
3. Continue to connect individuals to support systems and permanent housing in their community of origin



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