



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council and Housing Authority Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS **DATE: MAY 24, 2016**

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY LIVABILITY TASK FORCE ACTION PLAN GOALS AND HOMELESS REDUCTION AND PREVENTION STRATEGY FIVE-YEAR PLAN UPDATE - AGREEMENT WITH ALTURA CREDIT UNION - SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

ISSUES:

The City Council to receive an update on the Community Livability Task Force Action Plan goals and the Homeless Reduction and Prevention Strategy Five-Year Plan; make a finding that the City continue operating the Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Programs at 2840 Hulen Place; exercise the City's first option under the First Amendment to the Operating Agreement to purchase 50% of Path of Life Ministries' equity in 2840 Hulen Place; authorize staff to release a Request for Proposals for an Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Programs operator; and, consider: a Sponsorship Agreement with Altura Credit Union to provide a three-year financial sponsorship for the operation of a housing and employment program for homeless individuals, and a Resolution to support Senate Bill 1380, Homeless Coordination and Financing Council.

The Housing Authority to consider a Professional Consultant Services Agreement with Lotus Development Partners, LLP to develop a financing strategy plan to fund expansion of the Riverside Homeless Services Campus and on-going operations, and a supplemental appropriation of \$150,000 from the Housing Authority for the funding strategy plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Receive an update on the Community Livability Task Force Action Plan goals and Homeless Reduction and Prevention Strategy Five-Year Plan;
2. Make a finding that the City intends to continue operating an emergency and cold weather shelter programs at 2840 Hulen Place; exercise the City's first option under the First Amendment to the Operating Agreement to purchase 50% of Path of Life Ministries' equity in 2840 Hulen Place; and authorize staff to release a Request for Proposals for an Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Programs operator;
3. Approve a Sponsorship Agreement with Altura Credit Union (Attachment 1) to receive a three-year financial sponsorship for the Residential Opportunities, Occupational Training and Services (ROOTS) program for homeless individuals;

4. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the Sponsorship Agreement with Altura Credit Union upon approval by Altura, and to make minor non-substantive changes;
5. Adopt a Resolution (Attachment 3) to support Senate Bill 1380 – Homeless Coordination and Financing Council.

That the Housing Authority:

1. Approve and Authorize the Executive director, or designee, to execute the Professional Consultant Services Agreement with Lotus Development Partners (Lotus) (Attachment 4) in the amount of \$150,000, consistent with Health and Safety Code §34315.3; and
2. Authorize a supplemental appropriation of \$150,000 from the Housing Authority Fund Available Balance Account No. 0000280-298000 to the Housing Authority Professional Services Account No. 28575000-421000 for the funding strategy plan.

BACKGROUND:

On December 15, 2015, staff provided City Council with a six month update on the Community Livability Action Plan and introduced seven new goals¹ that included providing City Council with an update on the Homeless Reduction and Prevention Strategy Five-Year Plan in May 2016. The Homeless Reduction and Prevention Strategy Five-Year Plan update was to identify ongoing efforts that include Basic Needs and Services, Community Education, Preventative Services, Outreach, Employment Services and Permanent Housing².

DISCUSSION:

We know that we cannot end homelessness but we can reduce homelessness in our communities by: (1) working in partnership with our neighbors; (2) adopting a regional Housing First model to address homeless individual's first basic needs, which is shelter; (3) creating a regional Housing Trust to fund the development of affordable housing units that follow the Housing First model; and (4) creating an employment program to help homeless individuals become self-sufficient.

Due to the increasing need for homeless services, adjustments and expansion of the Homeless Reduction and Prevention Strategy Five-Year Plan are necessary. The proposed expansion includes an employment training program; provision of additional affordable housing units and evaluation of possible funding mechanisms to provide long-term, non-general fund, financial support to campus capital improvements and homeless services programming.

This report will provide an update on the Community Livability Task Force Action Plan goals and the Homeless Reduction and Prevention Strategy Five-Year Plan.

UPDATES:

Community Livability Task Force Goal Number 1:

“Remain aggressive in managing the problems caused by some of the homeless.”

1. On December 15, 2015 the City Council received a six month update on the CLTF Action Plan covering the period of April 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015. The six month update can be viewed at: Engage Riverside/City Clerk Records/City Council/Agency Report/2015/December/12-15-2015 CC RPT 45.

2. The Homeless Prevention and Reduction Strategy Five-Year Plan can be viewed at: Engage Riverside/City Clerk/Records/City Council/Agency Reports/ 2012/September/09-18-12 CC RPT 1.

Update:

The City of Riverside Homeless Outreach team consistently engages with homeless persons and responds to 311 calls related to homelessness. The City partnered with the Riverside University Health System – Behavior Health to hire a Behavioral Health Specialist to join the City’s Homeless Outreach Team. This partnership, along with continued partnerships with Riverside Police Department – Community Livability Officers and Problem Oriented Policing officers have addressed homeless individuals’ illegal activities.

Since the number of contacts related to livability violations, felony arrests, misdemeanor arrests, high-rate offenders, and patrols in the park made by the Police Department from October 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 will not be available until May 17th, staff will present the information during the May 24th City Council meeting.

Community Livability Task Force Goal Number 2:

“Engage our neighboring cities and County to develop a complementary, fair-share plan to address the region’s homeless situation.”

Update:

We have met with the City Managers from Banning, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, and Perris to discuss collaborating to serve homelessness in our cities and county. They were receptive to coordinating efforts to combat homelessness. We also met with the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) to discuss their potential lead role in coordinating a regional plan to combat homelessness in Riverside County that not only identifies the challenges faced but builds upon the efforts currently being undertaken by each jurisdiction.

WRCOG agreed to take the lead and held its first meeting under the Technical Advisory Committee meeting on April 21st that included: City managers from Riverside, Lake Elsinore, Jurupa Valley, Menifee, Temecula, and Hemet plus representatives from the Office of Supervisor Kevin Jeffries. The group discussed the need to address homelessness on a regional basis and reviewed the 2016 Point-in-Time Count data, list of current location and quantity of shelter beds, and the need for Permanent Supportive Housing using the Housing First model. We also discussed the possibility of creating a Housing Trust Fund to increase the supply of permanent supportive housing units throughout Riverside County. The Housing First Model and Housing Trust Fund will be discussed further at the next Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee meeting on May 19, 2016. As this meeting occurs after the publication date of this report, staff will provide a verbal update.

Community Livability Task Force Goal Number 3:

“Work with the Riverside Continuum of Care Housing Committee and the County of Riverside Department of Public Social Services to identify where additional shelter beds are needed throughout Riverside County based on the 2016 Homeless Point-in-Time Count.”

Update:

The 2016 Riverside County Point-in-Time Count data (Attachment 5) was released on April 11, 2016. **It shows that the City’s homeless population decreased by 35% from the previous**

year. This is a result of increased collaboration among the City's Homeless Outreach Team, Riverside Police Department, Riverside University Health – Behavioral Health, Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Housing Authority of the County of Riverside, Loma Linda Veteran Affairs, and Lighthouse Social Service Centers to engage homeless individuals and families and link them to services and housing. The 2016 Point-In-Time Count identified 258 unsheltered homeless individuals in the City of Riverside and the sum of 1,351 in the County of Riverside.

The Point-in-Time Count identified that 48 of the 258 unsheltered persons in the City to be chronically homeless. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's defines "chronically homeless" as an individual or family that:

- a) Resides in a place not meant for human habitation; and
- b) Has been residing in such a place for at least one year or has experienced at least four separate episodes of homelessness in the last three years; and
- c) Has a head of household with a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability.

The City's Homeless Outreach Team has been working to create a "by name list" based upon coordinated assessments of homeless individuals. When these assessments are completed, staff expects to find the number of chronically homeless individuals within the City to increase from the 48 identified during the Point-In-Time Count.

On May 10th, City staff asked the Continuum of Care Housing Committee to review the 2016 Riverside County Point-in-Time Count data and identify where additional shelter beds and affordable housing units are needed to address the homeless population throughout Riverside County.

Community Livability Task Force Goal Number 4:

"Implement a regional approach to addressing homelessness throughout Riverside County with a focus on a Housing First model, which is an approach to ending homelessness that centers on providing individuals and families experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible and then providing wraparound services needed to achieve self-sufficiency and housing stability."

Update:

Why Housing First? Housing First is a homeless approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homeless, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting property, or attending to substance abuse issues. Additionally, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life.

There is a large and growing evidence base demonstrating that Housing First is an effective solution to homelessness. Consumers in a Housing First model access housing faster and are more likely to remain stably housed. This is true for both permanent supportive housing and rapid

re-housing programs. Permanent supportive housing has a long-term housing retention rate of up to 98 percent.³ A variety of studies have shown that between 75 percent and 91 percent of households remain housed a year after being rapidly re-housed.⁴

Finally, permanent supportive housing has been found to be cost efficient. Providing access to housing generally results in cost savings for communities because housed people are less likely to use emergency services, including hospitals, jails, and emergency shelter, than those who are homeless. One study found an average cost savings on these emergency services of \$31,545 per person housed in a Housing First program over the course of two years.⁵ Another study showed that a Housing First program could cost up to \$23,000 less per consumer per year than a shelter program.⁶

The Housing Authority owns and operates twenty-one permanent supportive housing units that follow the Housing First model and are managed by one case manager. Clients are required to pay 30% of their monthly income towards their monthly rent. If the client does not have income, the case manager enrolls the client into the City's Rapid Re-Housing or Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program to cover the security and utility deposits and provide up to twelve months of rental assistance. The case manager works closely with clients to obtain supplemental income or find employment.

As these units offer permanent housing and support, once occupied, vacancy rarely occurs. As additional clients are identified, for which this housing intervention is most appropriate, staff struggles to identify an appropriate vacant unit that could be used for permanent supportive housing. Staff continues to reach out to other public agencies, non-profit service providers, and private landlords to locate vacant units but are having a difficult time locating vacant studio and one bedroom units.

To increase the number of available permanent supportive housing units in the City, the Housing Authority is proposing to acquire and rehabilitate up to two housing units per year. A combination of Federal and local, non-General Fund, resources have been identified for this purpose including federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program; HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds; and Housing Authority funds. Once properties are identified, staff will return to City Council and the Housing Authority Board to request approval to acquire and rehabilitate the properties.

To remain effective in case managing permanent supportive housing clients, the ratio of 1 case manager per 20 clients should not be exceeded. If the Housing Authority is successful in acquiring two additional units for use as permanent supportive housing on an annual basis, an additional case-manager will be required. A combination of rental receipts and federal grant funds are expected to be available to off-set the costs associated with the new case manager position.

In support of the Housing First policy, staff is recommending that the City Council adopt a Resolution (Attachment 3) to support passage of Senate Bill 1380 – Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council. Senate Bill 1380, if passed, will establish California as a housing first state by creating the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council, which will oversee the

3 Montgomery, A.E., Hill, L., Kane, V., & Culhane, D. Housing Chronically Homeless Veterans: Evaluating the Efficacy of a Housing First Approach to HUD-VASH 2013.

4 Byrne, T. Treglia, D., Culhane, S., Kuhm, J. & Kame, V, Predictors of Homelessness Among Families and Single Adults After Exit from Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Programs: Evidence from the Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Services for Veterans Program. 2015.

5 Perlman, J. & Parvensky, J. Denver Housing First Collaborative: Cost Benefit Analysis and Program Outcomes Report. 2006

6 Tsemberis, S. & Stefancic, A. Housing First for Long-Term Shelter Dwellers with Psychiatric Disabilities in a Suburban County: A Four-Year Study of Housing Access and Retention. 2007.

implementation of housing first in California. The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council will serve as the single statewide homelessness planning and policy development resource, coordinating funding and applications for competitive funding for programs that prioritize housing the chronically homeless. Senate Bill 1380 will require departments administering state programs to coordinate with the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to adopt housing first guidelines and regulations to incorporate core components of the housing first policy by July 1, 2019.

Community Livability Task Force Goal Number 5:

“Present the updated Homeless Reduction and Prevention Strategy Five-Year Plan to City Council in May 2016 to identify specific activities under the Plan’s following priorities that addresses community livability concerns and continues the CLTF ongoing efforts: (a) Basic Needs and Services, (b) Community Education, (c) Outreach, (d) Employment Services and Permanent Housing.”

UPDATE:

A. Basic Needs and Services:

i. Expansion of the Riverside Homeless Services Campus:

On May 2, 2014 the Development Committee conceptually approved the Hulen Place Tenant Improvement Project and expansion of services at the City of Riverside Homeless Service Campus. Development and design plans are approximately 70% complete and the estimated project cost is approximately \$4 million. To help off-set the project costs staff is working with the Riverside Ending Homelessness Fund and fund raising efforts are in progress. To date, the Riverside Ending Homelessness Fund has raised approximately \$62,000 from private donors of which approximately \$26,000 have been set aside exclusively for the expansion of the Homeless Services Campus.

Staff had previously evaluated a New Market Tax Credit Structure to fund the improvements, however, this strategy proved too costly and the New Market Tax Credit structure was abandoned. To help identify other funding sources that might be available to fund the Homeless Services Campus and ongoing operations, the Housing Authority released a Request for Proposals to secure a consultant to create an alternate funding strategy plan. The Housing Authority received one proposal from Lotus for \$150,000. Staff is requesting the Housing Authority to approve a Professional Consultant Services Agreement with Lotus to create a funding strategy plan. Upon completion of the funding strategy plan, staff will return to City Council and Housing Authority Board for approval to implement the funding strategy plan and complete the proposed Homeless Services Campus expansion.

The City and Path of Life Ministries have been collaborating for the past 10-years to operate the City’s Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Programs via an Operating Agreement, as amended⁷. This Operating Agreement and the First Amendment to the Operating Agreement, sought to ensure the operation of the Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Programs at 2840 Hulen Place for a ten year period. During the term of the agreement, the City and Path of Life

⁷ POLM Operating Agreement: May 17, 20015 CC Report #18

POLM Amended Operating Agreement: June 21, 20015 Report #22

POLM First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Operating Agreement: July 14, 2015 CC Report # 37

POLM Second Amendment to the Amended and Restated Operating Agreement: January 1, 2016 (no report)

Ministries were 50/50 equity sharing partners. At the end of the term, the City and Path of Life Ministries agreed that if the City desires to continue the Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Programs at 2840 Hulen Place, the City would have the first option to purchase Path of Life Ministries equity in the Property. The City would have to pay Path of Life Ministries 50% of the fair market value of the Property, less any and all funding contributions from the City. If the City does not want to continue the Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Programs at 2840 Hulen Place, Path of Life Ministries would then have the option to purchase the property from the City for 50% of the fair market value of the Property, less any and all funding contributions from the City.

Staff is recommending that the City continue to offer emergency and cold weather shelter services at 2840 Hulen Place and purchase Path of Life Ministries equity in the Property as was agreed upon in the First Amendment to the Operating Agreement to ensure emergency and cold weather shelter services continue to be provided at 2840 Hulen Place for the long term.

Therefore, 2840 Hulen Place's fair market value, based upon comparable properties is \$804,000. The City's purchase price would be \$402,000, less any and all funding contributions.

ACTIVITY	FUNDING
Property Comparable	\$804,000
50% of Property Comparable	(\$402,000)
Purchase Price	\$402,000
City's Contributions:	
2005 - Property Acquisition	(\$95,021)
2005 and 2008 - Property Improvements	(\$746,689)
City's Contributions During Term of the Agreement:	(\$841,710)
City's Purchase Price of the Property	(\$439,710)

The City's contributions to the property and facility exceed 50% of the estimated fair market value of the property; therefore, no funds would be due to Path of Life Ministries if the City purchases their equity in the Property.

During the Operating Agreement and subsequent amendments term, the City was able to single source the operations of the Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Program. Since the Second Amendment term will be expiring on June 30, 2016, the City will need to release a Request for Proposals to secure a qualified organization for a five-year period. To prevent any interruption to emergency shelter services to the homeless population during the recruitment period, staff would recommend entering into a one year lease and operating agreement with Path of Life Ministries.

- ii. *Create an Outreach Court Program through a collaboration with the City Attorney's Office, Police Department, Community & Economic Development Department, and the following Riverside County agencies: District Attorney's Office, Probation, and Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health.*

Staff is currently researching other entities that implement an Outreach Court Program, and will

tour their programs and speak with program staff to identify best practices and operational procedures that could be implemented in the City.

B. Community Education:

Revamp the “Say No to Panhandlers, Give to Positive Change” marketing campaign throughout the community to include an education message on how the community can contribute to the solution and not the problem.

Staff is working with the City’s Marketing Division to create a refreshed campaign with the goal of educating the public about existing resources available to help homeless individuals and families as well as what they can do to help end homelessness. The new program will be presented to Development Committee in July 2016 and Council thereafter. If approved, launch of the campaign is anticipated by the end of 2016. The refreshed campaign will expand into social media and digital venues including Facebook and You-Tube and translated in Spanish, where the number of views and impact of these efforts can be more easily quantified.

On April 2, 2016, the City of Riverside in partnership with the Riverside Ending Homelessness Fund Advisory Committee hosted the 3rd Annual Walk to End Homelessness at Fairmount Park in continuation of the effort to increase community awareness of the resources available to homeless individuals, families and those at risk of experiencing homelessness in Riverside. This event is the largest fundraising event of the year to support the mission of ending homelessness. More than 400 people participated in the event with a gross revenue of more than \$30,000, benefiting from generous support of local government and business sponsorship.

Homeless Services staff continue to host the Homeless Care Network meetings on the third Thursday of the month at the Cesar Chavez Community Center. The Homeless Care Network serves as a platform to facilitate effective communication, coordination and collaboration within the continuum of care services to the homeless in the City of Riverside. Over 50 organizations, including non-profit service providers, municipal service agencies, law enforcement, educational institutions and faith-based organizations continue to actively participate. In addition, staff regularly attends neighborhood meetings and provides information about the services currently available to those experiencing homelessness in our City and provides suggestions for ways community members can get involved. The City’s Homeless Outreach Team also provides willing volunteers and community members with an opportunity to “ride-along” to help engage people in need.

The Homeless Outreach Team engages business owners weekly, especially those within proximity to the Homeless Services Campus, along Massachusetts and Durahart and those throughout the City with regular contact with homeless individuals. Homeless Services staff has made it a priority to meet with businesses throughout the City. We discussed our role, educated business owners on homelessness, and discussed how they could be part of the solution. Businesses have been receptive to the one-on-one contact by the City’s Homeless Outreach Team. During this reporting period, Homeless Services staff has made contact with 65 businesses in the City.

C. Outreach:

Immediate effective outreach for the chronic and visible homeless. Increase homeless engagements and clean-up efforts in the river-bottom.

The City’s Homeless Outreach Team continues to strengthen their partnership with the City’s

Police Department, Riverside University Health – Behavioral Health, County of Riverside Housing Authority, Loma Linda Veteran Affairs, Riverside County Department of Social Services, various other service providers, and faith-based organizations. Together, these entities conducted a coordinated outreach effort and were able to assist 24 individuals to exit homelessness.

The City of Riverside Homeless Outreach Team along with its partners also successfully housed 89 homeless Veterans within the City of Riverside under the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. The City's Veteran by name list is being reviewed by our federal partners. Once approved, the City will be able to announce nationwide that Riverside has ended Veteran homelessness in our community.

During the reporting period, there have been an increase in the number of:

1. Clients served at the Access Center;
2. Individuals/families entered into emergency housing;
3. Individuals/families receiving rental assistance (led to stable housing); and
4. Clients entered into permanent supportive housing.

Activity	04/09/14 - 09/30/14	10/01/14 - 03/31/15*	Change from Previous Reporting Period	04/01/15 - 09/30/15	Change from Previous Reporting Period	10/01/15 - 3/31/16*	Change from Previous Reporting Period
No. of Clients Served at the Access Center	377	448	16%	352	-22%	360	9%
No. of Individuals/Families Entered Emergency Housing	Data not collected	412	N/A	82	-80%	316	285%
No. of Individuals/Families Received Rental Assistance	Data not collected	187	N/A	30	-84%	65	116%
No. of Clients Entered Permanent Supportive Housing	Data not collected	38	N/A	15	-61%	79	426%

* Number of clients served during this reporting period is higher due to the Cold Weather Shelter Program being in operation which provides an additional 72 beds from 12/01 – 04/15, this occurs annually.

Over the last six months, the Access Center served 360 clients. Below is a breakdown of their last know residence that demonstrates 49% of the clients served at the Access Center are coming from areas outside the City.

Location	Number of Clients	Percentage
City of Riverside	184	51%
Riverside – 92509 (Riverside County Unincorporated area)	19	5%
Riverside County (excluding City)	57	16%
San Bernardino County	35	10%
Los Angeles County	16	4%
Orange County	5	1%
San Diego County	6	2%
Imperial County	1	1%
Northern California Counties	6	2%
Out of State	26	7%
Unknown	5	1%

During the writing of this report, the City Manager's Office, the Police Department, and Homeless Services had a scheduled meeting for May 19th to review river-bottom encampment photos, put together a plan of address these encampments, offer housing and supportive services to individuals living in the river-bottom, and review best practices in homeless programs across the nation. As this meeting occurs after the publication date of this report, staff will provide a verbal update.

D. Employment Services: Identify employment opportunities that would help prevent homelessness and assist homeless people in becoming self-sufficient.

- i. Work with the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside to implement a Move to Work program and allocate housing vouchers for all the clients staying in the shelter every six months.*

The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside was not able to obtain a designation from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to operate a Move to Work program. Therefore, staff has investigated other options to achieve similar results.

Staff requested from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development an amendment to the City's Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Annual Action Plan to re-allocate \$736,800 of HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds to the City's Housing Authority to operate a Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program to provide rental assistance and security and utility deposits to homeless and chronically homeless individuals exiting life on the streets and moving directly into housing.

HUD's public comment period began on April 8th and closed on May 9th. As of the writing of this report, the comment period had not yet ended. If no public comments are received during the comment period, staff will request City Council to approve a HOME Agreement with the Housing Authority on June 14, 2016.

Information regarding staff's efforts for an employment program grounded in housing first principals are further detailed below.

- ii. Work with the Riverside Emergency Shelter Program operator to implement a client employment program to help with the shelter operations and modify case management plans to focus on obtaining housing first and then addressing barriers to sustaining their housing after clients have been housed.*

The City's Outreach Team, faced with debris associated with encampments within proximity to the Campus, recruited willing homeless individuals and shelter guests to help clean up the parking lot, areas adjacent to the Homeless Services Campus, and the pet kennel. They have begun to view these repeated actions as their responsibility, and have shown pride in the area that they maintain. Effects ripple throughout the homeless community, creating a "self-policing" of others who litter or do not clean up after themselves. Participating individuals thus far have been rewarded with bus passes or gift certificates provided by the Riverside Access Center.

- iii. *Create a homeless employment program through a collaboration with the Community & Economic Development Department and the Riverside County Workforce Development Center.*

In conjunction with the Community Livability Task Force Goal 4 to implement a housing first approach to end homelessness in conjunction with an employment program, staff has created the Residential Opportunities, Occupational Training and Services (ROOTS) Program that expands on the recent success of the debris cleanup pilot program at the Riverside Homeless Services Campus led by the City's Homeless Outreach Team. The mission of the Riverside ROOTS Program is to increase the stability of homeless persons in the community by following the housing first model that uses evidence based case management tools to remove barriers to employment such as remedial education, occupational and vocational training services. While participating in these opportunities, the participant earns a stipend and receives tenant based rental assistance to sustain placement in a permanent supportive housing unit. Upon graduation from the program the individual may be permanently employed.



Altura Credit Union has agreed to provide a three-year grant to sponsor the Riverside ROOTS Program, starting with \$20,000 in year one and increasing thereafter, funding program participant stipends. In addition to this financial contribution, Altura staff will be providing in-kind volunteer donations of staff-time for financial literacy training. Staff requests City Council approval of this sponsorship agreement. In addition, the City has contributed \$10,000 of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds towards the employment component of the program. If the Sponsorship Agreement is approved, the employment component of the Riverside ROOTS Program will have a revenue budget of \$30,000 and expenditures at \$29,920 in FY 2016/17. Conversations with other local businesses are on-going to expand the program for more client participation. When additional partnerships are secured, staff will return to the City Council for approval.

The City, the County of Riverside– Workforce Development Center, and Goodwill Southern California are proposing a partnership to further refine the Riverside ROOTS Program. The Workforce Development Center has indicated interest in providing pre-employment training and a pipeline to career coaching, job placement and after-care for up to two years. Goodwill Southern California has indicated interest in providing job training, stipend payments (funded by the City – CDBG grant and Altura Credit Union), and to help program participants find

sustainable employment.

Goodwill maintains a large network of businesses, community partners, and government agencies to help match qualified talent with employers. Their specialty is preparing and placing those with the most significant disabilities and vocational challenges, including Veterans, the homeless, mature workers, and at-risk youth.

Staff will return to City Council and the Housing Authority Board in October 2016 with the final design of the Riverside ROOTS program and partnership agreements with Goodwill and the County of Riverside. If approved, the program is expected to launch in October 2016, consistent with the fiscal year cycle for federal funding (October 1-September 31).

In future updates, Community Livability Task Force Goal Numbers 4 and 5D will be reported together as:

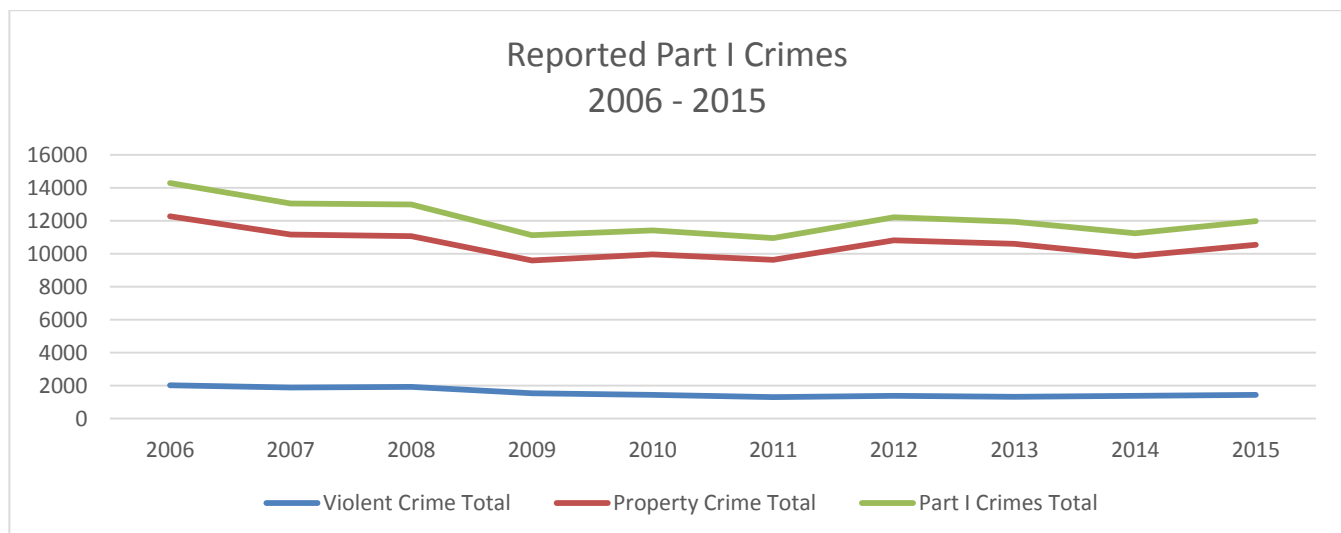
Implement regional and local approaches to addressing homelessness with a focus on Housing First and evidence based case management principals, by ending homelessness through the provision of housing as quickly as possible and then providing wraparound services needed to achieve self-sufficiency and housing stability including tools to remove barriers to employment.

Community Livability Task Force Goal Number 6:

“Meet with legislative representatives to discuss how existing laws (i.e. Assembly Bill 109 and Proposition 47) are hindering community livability for our residents and how these laws can be modified.”

Update

No statistical data is available at this time to evaluate the impact of Assembly Bill 109 (shifted responsibility for certain populations of offenders from the state to the counties) and Proposition 47 (reduced penalties for drug possession and other nonviolent crimes) on community livability. However, based on the following 10-year Part I Crimes report, we see that Part 1 Crimes increased when Assembly Bill 109 was enacted in October 2011, and when Proposition 47 was enacted in November 2014. Staff will continue to monitor data and report trends in future updates.



Source: RPD; April, 2016

On January 20, 2016, staff provided testimony to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity regarding the City's regional collaborative efforts to combat chronic homelessness by building on efforts currently being undertaken by each jurisdiction. A full copy of the testimony is provided as Attachment 6. Staff also made 10 suggestions for federal support:

1. A mandate to implement Evidence Based Case Management principals into any program receiving federal funds, and allow the funding necessary to allow for its effective inclusion. The Critical Time Intervention Model, which has three phases of case management, has demonstrated to have a 90 percent housing retention rate;
2. Incentivize a regional approach and coordination of homeless services to encourage local governments to work together;
3. Incentivize landlords and hotel/motel establishments to provide 30-90 day emergency housing vouchers. There is a shortage of landlords willing to house homeless individuals and families because of the stigma attached to housing programs, including the Housing Choice Voucher Program;
4. Create a mitigation fund for landlords willing to take a chance on renting to our homeless Veterans;
5. Provide emergency motel vouchers for Veterans that absolutely refuse to enter the shelter;
6. Provide incentives to large and small businesses to hire formerly homeless Veterans;
7. Provide funding for housing navigator positions;
8. Provide a method of recognizing organizations that partner with local government/regional partnerships to end Veteran homelessness;
9. Provide funding dedicated for capital improvements and operational expenses for facilities that provide coordinated services and meet basic needs; and
10. Maintain and expand existing programs.

Community Livability Task Force Goal Number 7:

"Identify funding for the Downtown Safety Ambassador Program."

Update

A Draft Safety Ambassador Program Request for Qualifications was presented to the City's Development Committee on January 21, 2016. The Development Committee directed staff to release the request for qualifications so that the associated costs can be better defined while funding is pursued. The Committee also directed staff to consult with the Riverside Police Officers Association before releasing the request for qualifications. Staff consulted with the Riverside Police Officers Association (RPOA) President in March. The RPOA has no objections to the Ambassador Program as currently proposed.

Staff has since revised the request for qualifications to include comments received from the Development Committee and community stakeholders. Staff will release the request for qualifications in late May.

SUMMARY:

The City cannot address homelessness on its own. We need to work with our neighbors to: (1) adopt a regional Housing First model to address homeless individual's first basic needs, which is shelter; (2) create a regional Housing Trust to fund the development of affordable housing units that follow the Housing First model; and (3) create an employment program to help homeless individuals become self-sufficient.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the City General Fund. The Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Programs receives an annual allocation from the City's federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. In FY 2015/16, the City allocated \$125,500 of CDBG grant funds and \$162,958 of ESG funds towards the Emergency and Cold Weather Shelter Programs.

Prepared by:	Rafael Guzman, Community & Economic Development Director
Certified as to	
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Approved by:	Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Sponsorship Agreement with Altura Credit Union
2. Resolution to support passage of Senate Bill 1380 – Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council
3. Professional Services Agreement between the Housing Authority and Lotus Development Partners LLC
4. 2016 Riverside County Point-in-Time Count data
5. US House of Representative Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Testimony of Emilio Ramirez, Community & Economic Development Deputy Director, January 20, 2016
6. Presentation