

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:44 AM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Housing for Homeless

Comment received yesterday.

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: Ebrahim Sadeghi [mailto:drebrahim5@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 3:51 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: [External] Housing for Homeless

Dear Mr/Ms. Ramirez,

I have been working with the homeless population as a psychologist for about 20 years at Inland Temporary Homes (now Inland Housing Solutions) in Loma Linda. Rapid rehousing is a good idea, but one case manager for a group of apartments is not enough. Drug testing should also be mandatory. My experience doing therapy with them taught me that addicted persons will do anything and everything to obtain drugs, including breaking into neighbors homes and cars. The proposed site near La Sierra Ave and Indiana (near my home) may prove to be problematic for neighbors nearby since being clean of drugs is no longer mandatory for rapid rehousing. Also, these people need psychotherapy and life skills training which is offered but no longer mandatory under rapid rehousing. I think the best solution, therefore, is to build housing for the homeless near police stations (or create police outposts near the housing) so they can be constantly monitored for drug activity as well as other crimes such as breaking into houses and cars.

Respectfully,

Ebrahim Sadeghi, Psy.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

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PSHplancomment

From: Chani Beeman <chanibee@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 6:10 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Support for Housing First Plan

Hello,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the draft proposal for Housing First in Riverside. I support this plan as an important step toward addressing the increasing problem of homelessness in our community. I've done a lot of research, interviewed providers for PSH and attended the UCR Public Policy Institute seminar on housing policies.

Housing First is the best option available. Research shows that the current approach is not only NOT effective (duh) it is more expensive and more harmful in trying to address homelessness. The cost of homelessness can be calculated at some many levels, not the least of which is the cost to individuals who slip further and further away from options as they loose shelter.

I am proud that Riverside is meeting this challenge in a deep and systematic manner. I also know that this plan is not the full answer; there is no one solution to resolving homelessness. However, I believe that involving the faith community, addressing the availability of affordable housing and implementing this plan will help us get closer to the goal of assuring access to shelter.

The plan has a complex financing plan that allocates already existing funding toward implementation of this plan. However, ongoing support from Measure Z funds is critical and was one of the issues to be funded when the city was promoting passage of Measure Z.

Chani Beeman

PSHplancomment

From: Margaret Clark <Margaret.Clark@medsch.ucr.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 7:02 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First Public Comment

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Margaret Clark and I am a 3rd year medical student at UC Riverside School of Medicine. I also plan to continue practicing in our region during residency and my career. I am writing to share my enthusiastic support for the Housing First plan up for consideration at Riverside City Council.

Since my first year of medical school, I have volunteered at our Riverside and San Bernardino free clinics. As a third year medical student I rotate through our Inland Empire emergency rooms and general medicine floors. Additionally, I currently help care for patients in our psychiatry emergency room on a weekly basis. Many of our patients are homeless. They have told me of difficulty accessing clean spaces for food storage and sanitary preparation. They have difficulty accessing potable water for cleaning their body and clothes. They often experience trauma to body or possessions as a course of living on the streets or in vulnerable environments. For some of these individuals, the years of compounded trauma makes it difficult for them to break the cycle and navigate through the healthcare system for effective prevention and treatment of physical and mental illness. I believe Housing First could help these individuals and make our community and better place to live for all of us.

I support the Housing First plan and its core components under California Law. It is based on evidence demonstrating better outcomes for residents compared to other housing models and lower costs overall. It is also, importantly, based in a valuing of all life and health for everyone. As plans move forward, I urge policymakers to always consider whether plans are in the best interest of and primarily benefit those most marginalized in our communities - to put justice at the center of this work. In particular, I share my support for creating solutions to the intersection of homelessness and psychiatric conditions as well as substance use through social and health service provision, not criminalization and policing.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark
Third Year Medical Student
UC Riverside School of Medicine

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Nick Boyes <cainterfill@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 8:16 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First Strategy

Hello have a few questions about housing first

“permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements”

1. Why are we giving drug addicts rewards for bad choices?
2. Where will the funding be coming from to house these individuals?
3. How will these individuals change their lifestyle if no requirements are made for them?
4. Where will this housing be located?

Will be waiting for your response thank you

Nick Boyes

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Denise Williams <blubela@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 5:57 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comments

Good afternoon,

First, thank you for undertaking this program in an effort to help those in our city who are on the verge of or are homeless. This population is diverse and includes children.

While there may be a small percentage of individuals who choose this as a lifestyle, the majority of those do not, could be our family members or friends, or could be us.

Initial suggestions I have after review of the plan are (in no particular order):

- 1) Include as a component of the plan on-going outreach, feedback across the community, businesses and nonprofit organizations in order to network, share information, and identify needed resources
- 2) Explore feasibility of utilizing vacant buildings such former schools and vacant industrial buildings as options for housing.
- 3) Network with local school districts to establish a program with nutrition services for donations of unused food that would otherwise be thrown away daily.
- 4) Network with RTA to establish transportation vouchers to be used for medical appointments, work, or school.
- 5) Incorporate fundraising efforts in established events.
- 6) Publicize successes of the program.
- 7) Establish an ad-hoc committee for the purposes of community involvement and support of the program and its success.

Those are my suggestions initially which I hope you find beneficial. I appreciate the opportunity for input and in receiving the communication updates regarding our City.

Best regards,

Denise Williams
(951) 286-0874

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Erin Edwards <ee.edwards12@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2018 9:09 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Support for Housing First Model

Hello,

I am from Ward 1 and I am in strong support of the housing first plan. Thank you so much to everyone involved for all their hard work bringing this model to Riverside.

-Erin Edwards

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: john hickling <jc_hickling@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2018 5:43 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Cynthia Hickling

I live in ward 6 and I am harassed every single day I go out by transients. Whether it is to put gas in the car, buy groceries, or worse take my child to the park or library. Our quality of life is going down here in Riverside. Crime is up in our neighborhood and I no longer feel safe. Your idea of Housing First" would be great if these transients wanted a way out and lead productive lives. But most don't and I think first we need to get them off the streets and if there are not enough beds in the shelter, then build a larger away. But these shelters need to be away from our family neighborhoods. And why is our city allowing homeless people to encroach all over the city? Especially where children gather?



Virus-free. www.avg.com

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Jerry Good <jhg999@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 6, 2018 11:03 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comment from meeting

Asking for Measure Z funds is not a great idea. Was not mentioned during campaign for that vote.

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Frank Mihelich <fmihelich@calbaptist.edu>
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2018 2:08 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: RK Skove; Jeff Wright; Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: [External] Housing First Comment & Suggestion

To Whom May Concern,

I had the great privilege of attending the Housing First community talk lead by Emilio Ramirez at Arlington Library on Saturday January 6th. Mr. Ramirez led a lively and needed conversation about homelessness in Riverside and the city's proposed plan to deal with our citizens that seem to have fallen through the cracks.

I made a suggestion in the meeting and Mr. Ramirez encouraged me to e-mail this address with my thoughts. Thank you for taking the time to consider my idea.

The meeting on Saturday seemed to align itself along the current unhelpful political fault lines that our country is struggling with. The liberals in the room suggested that we get all the homeless off the street and into housing "no questions asked" as soon as possible, to better address their needs and get them back up on their feet. The conservatives in the room felt that giving "handouts" at the tax payers' expense is only going to bring down property values in the areas "forced" to house people who are homeless most often through their poor choices and lack of personal responsibility. It was suggested that these "handouts" will also encourage "vagrants" from other states to move to California where their lack of personal responsibility can be bank rolled at the tax payers expense. I believe that both of these views contain elements of truth, but are ultimately too myopic to solve the problem.

Here is my suggestion:

Offering permanent housing with no hard end date to every homeless person doesn't seem to me to take into consideration the various and complicated reasons, both systemic and personal, that people are homeless. This approach might not be the best use of the city's resources, if the end goal is transformation. I suggest that the Housing First program partners with the current homeless shelters and social workers engaged in this work to identify those in the homeless community that are ready for and would respond well to the services that would help them toward transformation. Once those individuals are identified they can then be invited into a program that has a realistic end date, even if that end date is two or five years from the time they enter the program. The long term, open ended, on going care work that would need to be done after the participant is housed and integrated back into the larger community can be better done through local churches, synagogues, and private community groups.

I believe that this proposal is realistic about the systemic reasons for homelessness and also the personal responsibility that individuals will need to take as they both accept help and learn to help themselves. It highlights that every citizen of Riverside is responsible to help the homeless with our tax money. Often the only thing that separates us from the homeless is the fact that we were born in this neighborhood and not that neighborhood. We are personally responsible to each other.

I believe that a helpful private sector model for this approach is the Bowery Mission in NYC: <https://www.bowery.org/>

Many elements of this model can be taken on by city government in close partnership with private community groups.

Thank you for listening and I look forward to hearing the city's final plan to deal with this important and delicate issue.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

Frank Mihelich

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Matt Casillas <casillas.matthew23fegr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 12:19 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless community

To whom it may concern,

I am a concerned resident of Riverside Ca. I was reading on what the city of Riverside was considering on their idea of giving shelter the homeless community. I believe that is an idea that should stay an idea. Allowing housing for the homeless community in theory would be a great Good Samaritan idea but in reality will hurt the community. It will attract more homeless to the area. On top of that, it will detour people from living in the area. It will also detour people from wanting to buy in the area as well. It would be more of a safety concern when there are more homeless arriving to the area to seek shelter. There is not one area in particular that I would not like to see these homes built. I don't think it is a smart idea for any homes to be built anywhere in Riverside. Please think about the community when these decisions are made. Do not just think of the positives that may come out. It is clear and easy to see that the negatives outweigh the positives on this agenda.

Thank you,

Concerned citizen

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 1:53 PM
To: Frank Mihelich; PSHplancomment; Nguyen, Alexander
Cc: RK Skove; Jeff Wright
Subject: RE: [External] Housing First Comment & Suggestion

Thank you Mr. Mihelich,

I have submitted this comment to our consultant. We will review and amend the plan as needed.

Thank You.



Office of Homeless Solutions

From: Frank Mihelich [mailto:fmihelich@calbaptist.edu]
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2018 2:08 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: RK Skove; Jeff Wright; Ramirez, Emilio
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Thank you for listening and I look forward to hearing the city's final plan to deal with this important and delicate issue.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

Frank Mihelich

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 1:57 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: FW: [External] Suggestions: Housing First presentations

Thank You,

Office of Homeless Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Lane And Susan Cash [mailto:s-cash@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2018 8:04 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Cc: Nguyen, Alexander
Subject: [External] Suggestions: Housing First presentations

Emilio,

I attended the workshop on Housing First last Saturday as I wanted to get a sense of the type of objections that might arise during this process. I am a strong proponent for the proposal and have been working through my church to improve the kinds of services we offer to the homeless in our community.

If you will allow me, I would like to offer some suggestions for your future presentations that might help to clarify the project and reduce the resistance. First, be positive and proud that the city is proposing Housing First to relieve homelessness. Housing First improves the safety and health of the community and the homeless themselves. In the long run it is a more effective and efficient use of community resources. Give some examples of cities that are successfully utilizing Housing First. This strategy offers a better chance of reducing the pain and suffering of people who have fallen through the safety net that most of us enjoy.

When discussing resources needed for the proposal please emphasize the multiple sources - federal, state, grants, etc. The Saturday meeting got stuck on Measure Z, which is contentious in itself.

Please emphasize that vendors will provide services for each Housing First site. The presentation on Saturday used the pronoun, "we", making it seem that Riverside would be providing the services. If there is not a method to assess the effectiveness of the vendor's services, there should be.

When reviewing each project site, please emphasize that some of the sites are locations where agencies and churches have already declared their commitment to Housing First units. This should reduce the impression that the city is the sole contributor of property. Show how beautifully maintained the existing Housing First unit is on Indiana. It is an enhancement to the neighborhood. Give a brief explanation that once Housing First is approved each site will have to go through individual review and approval by the Planning Commission.

Please make sure that the discussion is not monopolized by the most hateful or loudest voices. Set some time limits for each speaker, and courtesy requirements, like not interrupting speakers. If possible, have that managed by someone other than yourself so you can concentrate on addressing each question.

After the community meeting at Calvary Presbyterian Church I will submit feedback to the proposal that can be used in your presentation to Council. Please invite the audience at Calvary to attend the council meeting where this proposal will be presented. The Housing First proposal is an opportunity for the values of the community to guide the approval process.

Please call on me if I can be of help. I hope you will accept these suggestions in the spirit they were offered. I want to help you to be successful in your efforts.

Susan Cash

Sent from my iPad

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: harry.gentywaksberg@gmail.com on behalf of Harry Waksberg
<harry.waksberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 9:37 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Public comment: Housing First

Hello, my name is Harry Waksberg and I'm an Eastside resident. I am VERY GLAD Riverside is pursuing Housing First - this is the most effective model for reducing homelessness, and I absolutely believe it is the right choice for Riverside. I plan to attend future city council meetings where this will be discussed to further voice my support of this plan. Thank you so much for choosing a compassionate and effective solution to homelessness!

Harry Waksberg
harry.waksberg@gmail.com
914-473-3743

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Donatella Galella <donatellagalella@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 10:09 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Support for Housing First

Good morning,

I'm a resident of Ward 1 in Riverside, and I'm writing to support the Housing First program. I believe that the homeless should receive homes and services as the ethical and economical thing to do.

Thank you.

Regards,
Donatella Galella

Donatella Galella, PhD
Assistant Professor
Theatre, Film, and Digital Production
University of California, Riverside

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Tracy S Avery <tracy.avery@ucr.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 10:23 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comments on housing first strategy

I wonder who is going to want unscreened people in their neighborhood and what this will do for property values. I do believe a solution is needed. The problem is out of control. Who is going to help once the building is built? Who will monitor. What is the long term plan. Must these people be citizens? Will these people be registered sex offenders? How close to schools will these community buildings be built? I fear without some rules you are turning a residential building into a crack den.

Tracy Avery
Development Assistant
University of California, Riverside
College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
HMNSS A3412
900 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92521
Tel: 951-827-4290
Fax: 951-827-4537

Read about "Living the Promise: The Campaign for UC Riverside" in the latest [UCR Magazine online](#).

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Chuck Dillon <chuckdillon@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 11:00 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First - Plan comments

The biggest issue with "Housing First" is there is no requirement for sobriety or even an attempt to get sober. All participants should, at a minimum, be in a program to get them sober. If not, we as taxpayers are simply supporting their habit, that is not right. There is also no requirement for any kind of mental health screening or requirement to take their medications, if required.

Here are a couple of quotes from the Housing First website, specifically the "Housing First Principles" document:

"Tenant screening and selection practices promote accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services."

"The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction."

As far as I can see, the recipients of all these taxpayer dollars have to do absolutely NOTHING!

--

Chuck Dillon

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Manalo, Mervyn <MManalo@RIVCO.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 2:45 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Permanent Supportive Housing Projects

I like the examples of supportive housing by Jamboree, BRIDGE Housing and particularly National CORE. I would really like to see a project called Merv's Place in Riverside. It has a nice ring to it.



Mervyn Manalo
Planning Specialist III

mmanalo@rivco.org
www.RivCoEDA.org

**Housing Authority of the
County of Riverside**
5555 Arlington Ave
Riverside, CA 92504
Phone: (951)343-5495

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County of Riverside California

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: CONSTANCE DECKER <conniedecker08@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 4:56 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] HOUSES FIRST COMMENT

NEIGHBORS: This Saturday, January 6th, from 9:00-11:00 at the Arlington Library, the City is sponsoring a workshop on Houses First. If you oppose and have a voice, I would appreciate all of you attending, as Elissa and I will be there, with every intention of SPEAKING UP! The address of the library is 9556 Magnolia, Riverside. SEE YOU THERE!

I don't know where to start with how bad this plan is! Let's start with Elissa's response some time ago. She is a mental health professional. "The passing of those propositions only warrants further protection for this city's residents, as evidenced by the recent surge in crime perpetuated by vagrants. The idea of some sort of utopian society in which accountability is not expected of those that make poor choices is dangerous, period. The city should not decline to enforce vagrancy laws that are already in existence based on this unfounded theory. CONNIE'S ADDITION: WE ARE TOLD THAT RIVERSIDE HAS NO VAGRANTS!!!

There are solutions to this, but they are pragmatic and require the same level of pragmatism from leadership. Appeasing faith based communities should never be a priority, as their philosophies on many issues do not align with all that reside here in Riverside. At this time, residents need some appeasing, not the vagrants and churches. "

- Additionally, there are multiple facets of Houses First that are uninformed. Here are just SOME of the problems with it:
- *No criteria to get in housing
- *NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE THAT THIS SOLVES THE PROBLEM
- *No sobriety required of any kind, and don't have to be in treatment
- *No mentally ill have to be in treatment programs
- *No credit parameters and do not have to be classified as "tenant ready"
- *No explanation as to who is paying for this
- *No information as to the value of our homes IF this is enacted
- *No acknowledgement that more people will be moving to Riverside from other states or counties for the free or cheap rent and Medicaid services that other states refuse to provide
- You say the plan is to vette tenants--to find the ones that truly want to change their life. How? You should know that addicts will tell you anything you want to hear. Notice that the current Homeless Teams that are supposed to be getting "OUR NEIGHBORS WITHOUT HOMES" into treatment, are an abject failure. The homeless appear to be totally happy in their current circumstance. Why shouldn't they?
- I am a compassionate person, not to be confused with ENABLING. I believe in personal responsibility and accountability for your decisions. HOUSES FIRST incorporates none of that. It hasn't worked in the two states that have adopted this. Los Angeles has ongoing prostitution and drug sales going on in HOUSES FIRST. There is NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE that Houses First works because it doesn't.
- Our City leaders appear to not be concerned with what happens to our property values with these facilities embedded in our neighborhoods.
- The City Council could enact various decisions to get rid of these vagrants, but they are so scared of lawsuits that they do nothing to appease US. Am I on the warpath? You bet! THIS California has lost 240,000 taxpayers last year because California has created its own country that is lawless. I'm looking for the door if we cannot change the state and legislative leaders.
- You may have federal grants for some of this now, but it won't be in perpetuity. Then we will have to hand over more dollars to these vagrants, who have no personal accountability.

Additionally, Phil Pitchford indicates that Riverside has limited resources, although we gave the City 50 million MORE dollars every year. What's happening to that money? Oh, that's right. It went to raises and retirement benefits for our public safety officers and City Council. REALLY?

Connie Decker
conniedecker08@gmail.com

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Theresa Hanley <thanley@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 5:36 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comments on the draft plan

Hello . Thank you for sharing the draft plan. We all want to do something about homelessness and everyone has ideas about what is the 'right' thing to do. This plan is based in recent research. Most importantly, it is consistent with existing and developing public policy guidelines and the funding structures that follow those guidelines. For these reasons and because I believe that if each community takes better care to address its homeless issues, no community will be overwhelmed with need, I support the plan in general.

I do have some questions,

- 1) Can you confirm that the city would be in partnership with other entities to build and operate these PSH? Unless I missed it, the processes/criteria for seeking and selecting these partners is not presented in much detail. Is there more information on this – or can you re-direct me to the section of the plan which addresses this? Of specific concern is how the 'wraparound services' and other operational needs will be funded and provided.
- 2) How is the plan expected to intersect with existing affordable housing plans/projects? One item which is of some concern to me is the 'mixed housing.' While I understand the seeming logic of mixing some PSH and affordable housing, as one who has (successfully) raised a child as a single parent (in the earliest years on fully employed but nevertheless low income), I remember well the less than secure housing choices I had. I think it is critical that otherwise capable families are not needlessly exposed to at-risk situations. I suppose this goes back to successful operation and service provisions.
- 3) Has any thought been given to how the recently adopted federal tax 'reform' may affect the funding sections of this plan?
- 4) In Ward three, can you provide more information on the site identified as 'Garden' – is this a street name? perhaps cross streets?

Finally, I learned of the plan's release via Nextdoor. Many thanks to Mr. Pitchford for engaging commenters on that forum in a professional and balanced manner.
Thank you.

Theresa Hanley (Ward 3)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Hoopskyt <hoopskyt@aim.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 10:52 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] homeless

There is not enough housing options available when one finally hits bottom and needs it. Since many are mentally ill, they often suffer from *agnosia* and are unaware of their mental illness. If by chance they reach out for help, the bureaucratic red tape and long waiting lists eliminate the possibility of getting them help. Mentally ill have limited windows when they are open to help but everything takes too long. Even if they do get help, it's only for a few days and then they are left on their own to try to maneuver the system. They don't have the ability to do that. They need a case worker assigned the minute they are admitted to ETS or the ER. That case worker needs to be there more than once a month at the Blaine Clinic. They need someone to take care of them 24/7 until they get stabilized and by that I mean for at least 6-9 months. The current system makes them fend for themselves. If they were able to do that, they would not be homeless.

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2018 5:33 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: Fwd: [External] Housing First Comment & Suggestion

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From: Frank Mihelich <fmihelich@calbaptist.edu>
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2018 2:08 PM
Subject: [External] Housing First Comment & Suggestion
To: PSHplancomment <h1plancomment@riversideca.gov>
Cc: RK Skove <rkskove@gmail.com>, Jeff Wright <jeff@madisonstreetchurch.com>, Ramirez, Emilio <eramirez@riversideca.gov>

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I had the great privilege of attending the Housing First community talk lead by Emilio Ramirez at Arlington Library on Saturday January 6th. Mr. Ramirez led a lively and needed conversation about homelessness in Riverside and the city's proposed plan to deal with our citizens that seem to have fallen through the cracks.

I made a suggestion in the meeting and Mr. Ramirez encouraged me to e-mail this address with my thoughts. Thank you for taking the time to consider my idea.

The meeting on Saturday seemed to align itself along the current unhelpful political fault lines that our country is struggling with. The liberals in the room suggested that we get all the homeless off the street and into housing "no questions asked" as soon as possible, to better address their needs and get them back up on their feet. The conservatives in the room felt that giving "handouts" at the tax payers' expense is only going to bring down property values in the areas "forced" to house people who are homeless most often through their poor choices and lack of personal responsibility. It was suggested that these "handouts" will also encourage "vagrants" from other states to move to California where their lack of personal responsibility can be bank rolled at the tax payers expense. I believe that both of these views contain elements of truth, but are ultimately too myopic to solve the problem.

Here is my suggestion:

Offering permanent housing with no hard end date to every homeless person doesn't seem to me to take into consideration the various and complicated reasons, both systemic and personal, that people are homeless. This approach might not be the best use of the city's resources, if the end goal is transformation. I suggest that the Housing First program partners with the current homeless shelters and social workers engaged in this work to identify those in the homeless community that are ready for and would respond well to the services that would help them toward transformation. Once those individuals are identified they can then be invited into a program that has a realistic end date, even if that end date is two or

five years from the time they enter the program. The long term, open ended, on going care work that would need to be done after the participant is housed and integrated back into the larger community can be better done through local churches, synagogues, and private community groups.

I believe that this proposal is realistic about the systemic reasons for homelessness and also the personal responsibility that individuals will need to take as they both accept help and learn to help themselves. It highlights that every citizen of Riverside is responsible to help the homeless with our tax money. Often the only thing that separates us from the homeless is the fact that we were born in this neighborhood and not that neighborhood. We are personally responsible to each other.

I believe that a helpful private sector model for this approach is the Bowery Mission in NYC: <https://www.bowery.org/>

Many elements of this model can be taken on by city government in close partnership with private community groups.

Thank you for listening and I look forward to hearing the city's final plan to deal with this important and delicate issue.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

Frank Mihelich

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Gettis, Erin
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 7:57 AM
To: Davis, Michelle; McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: Fwd: [External] Re: City of Riverside Requests Public Comment on Housing First Strategy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pitchford, Phil" <PPitchford@riversideca.gov>
Date: January 3, 2018 at 6:26:10 PM PST
To: "Gettis, Erin" <EGettis@riversideca.gov>, "Sennewald, Yvette" <YSENNNEWALD@riversideca.gov>
Cc: "Guzman, Rafael" <RGuzman@riversideca.gov>, "Zelinka, Al" <azelinka@riversideca.gov>, "Ramirez, Emilio" <ERamirez@riversideca.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] Re: City of Riverside Requests Public Comment on Housing First Strategy

Fyi

Phil Pitchford
Communications Officer
City of Riverside
951.826.5975
951.675.6806 (cell)
ppitchford@riversideca.gov
www.riversideca.gov

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nextdoor <reply@rs.email.nextdoor.com>
Date: January 3, 2018 at 4:49:29 PM PST
To: <ppitchford@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: City of Riverside Requests Public Comment on Housing First Strategy
Reply-To:
<reply+GUYTQMZRGM4V64DSN5SHKY3UNFXW4X2QJ5JVIXZXGM3TSNRZGAZQ====@reply.nextdoor.com>



Connie D.,

NEIGHBORS: This Saturday, January 6th, from 9:00-11:00 at the Arlington Library, the City is sponsoring a workshop on Houses First. If you oppose and have a voice, I would appreciate all of you attending, as Elissa and I will be there, with every intention of SPEAKING UP! The address of the library is 9556 Magnolia, Riverside. SEE YOU THERE!

I don't know where to start with how bad this plan is! Let's start with Elissa's response some time ago. She is a mental health professional. "The passing of those propositions only warrants further protection for this city's residents, as evidenced by the recent surge in crime perpetuated by vagrants. The idea of some sort of utopian society in which accountability is not expected of those that make poor choices is dangerous, period. The city should not decline to enforce vagrancy laws that are already in existence based on this unfounded theory. CONNIE'S ADDITION: WE ARE TOLD THAT RIVERSIDE HAS NO VAGRANTS!!!

There are solutions to this, but they are pragmatic and require the same level of pragmatism from leadership. Appeasing faith based communities should never be a priority, as their philosophies on many issues do not align with all that reside here in Riverside. At this time, residents need some appeasing, not the vagrants and churches. " Additionally, there are multiple facets of Houses First that are uninformed. Here are just SOME of the problems with it:

- *No criteria to get in housing
- *NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE THAT THIS SOLVES THE PROBLEM
- *No sobriety required of any kind, and don't have to be in treatment
- *No mentally ill have to be in treatment programs
- *No credit parameters and do not have to be classified as "tenant ready"
- *No explanation as to who is paying for this
- *No information as to the value of our homes IF this is enacted
- *No acknowledgement that more people will be moving to Riverside from other states or counties for the free or cheap rent and Medicaid services that other states refuse to provide

You say the plan is to vet tenants--to find the ones that truly want to change their life. How? You should know that addicts will tell you anything you want to hear. Notice that the current Homeless Teams that are supposed to be getting "OUR NEIGHBORS WITHOUT HOMES" into treatment, are an abject failure. The homeless appear to be totally happy in their current circumstance. Why shouldn't they?

I am a compassionate person, not to be confused with ENABLING. I believe in personal responsibility and accountability for your decisions. HOUSES FIRST incorporates none of that. It hasn't worked in the two states that have adopted this. Los Angeles has ongoing prostitution and drug sales going on in HOUSES FIRST. There is NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE that Houses First works because it doesn't.

Our City leaders appear to not be concerned with what happens to our

property values with these facilities embedded in our neighborhoods. The City Council could enact various decisions to get rid of these vagrants, but they are so scared of lawsuits that they do nothing to appease US. Am I on the warpath? You bet! THIS California has lost 240,000 taxpayers last year because California has created its own country that is lawless. I'm looking for the door if we cannot change the state and legislative leaders.

Original post by Communications Officer Phil Pitchford from City of Riverside (31 replies):

The City of Riverside's Office of Homeless Solutions today (1/2) published its draft Housing First strategy, which is designed to reduce the number of people who are homeless, and is seeking the...

Jan 3 in General to subscribers of City of Riverside

[View or reply](#)

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This message is intended for ppitchford@riversideca.gov.
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Nextdoor, 875 Stevenson Street, Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94103


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(/profile/5183139/)
City of Riverside Requests Public Comment on Housing First Strategy
(/news_feed/?post=73796903)

Communications Officer Phil Pitchford (/profile/5183139/) from City of Riverside · 2h ag

The City of Riverside's Office of Homeless Solutions today (1/2) published its dra Housing First strategy, which is designed to reduce the number of people who are homeless, and is seeking the public's comment on the plan through Jan. 25.

The Housing First strategy is a community-based program designed to address homelessness across Riverside, relying on partnerships to develop much-needed projects and programs. The approach is seen as a way to allocate scarce resources to amplify City efforts to combat homelessness.

Responding to a growing incidence of homelessness in the City, and using data from state and local sources, maps and other city records, the Office of Homeless Solutions hopes to utilize the Housing First strategy as a road map to create, implement and operate additional housing in the City of Riverside.

Copies of the Housing First Plan are available on the City's website –

<http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolut...>

(<http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolutions/what-are-we-doing/housing-first.asp>) -- and at City libraries, and at the offices of the City Housing Authority, on the 5th Floor of City Hall, 3900 Main Street, and at the Office of the City Clerk, on the 7th floor of City Hall.

"Today, we are proposing a proactive and targeted homeless plan that will benefit residents, businesses, and neighbors who need assistance to lead healthy and productive lives," Mayor Rusty Bailey said. "This Housing First Plan will enable us to assist a greater number of our homeless neighbors."

The Housing First plan is the latest in a series of efforts to combat homelessness Riverside City Council workshop with a variety of stakeholders to discuss the issue of homelessness within the City suggested Housing First could be a key strategy to implement.

At a follow-up meeting with the City Council regarding homeless policy, the Council directed staff to pursue Housing First. The Housing First Plan, modified with public comment collected this month, is expected to be considered by the City Council on Feb. 27.

"The City of Riverside is working on many fronts to combat homelessness," Mayor Pro Tem Jim Perry said. "I encourage all stakeholders in Riverside to review the Housing First strategy and provide their feedback so the City can achieve the best result."

The Office of Homeless Solutions aims to prevent and reduce homelessness

across Riverside through the mobilization of partnerships at the federal, County, regional, and community levels. These partnerships contribute to sustainable and comprehensive development of services and facilities to help those who are chronically or episodically homeless, or at risk of homelessness, or are part of the hidden homeless population, move towards well-being and self-sufficiency.

“The Housing First Plan is ultimately about assisting the most vulnerable Riverside residents with meeting their needs for basic survival and providing them with general support as they begin the process of charting a course for recovering the lives,” said Emilio Ramirez, Director of the Office of Homeless Solutions.

The Housing First Plan specifically supports the core principles of permanent supportive housing, and embracing people experiencing street homelessness who have a mental health or addiction challenge, untreated mental illness or addiction that drives them to live on the street.

The City encourages comments from residents, stakeholders, and regional government partners throughout the month of January. After reading the Housing First Plan, citizens can email comments to H1plancomment@riversideca.gov (mailto:H1plancomment@riversideca.gov). Comments also can be mailed to: City of Riverside Housing Authority, ATTN: H1 Plan Comment, 3900 Main Street, Riverside CA 92522.

2h ago · Subscribers of City of Riverside in General

REPLY · 20 ▾

Robert, Ms, Karen, and 9 others thanked you



Debi L. from Mission Grove · 2h ago

All I see is Local and State Officials and Politicians giving themselves Raises.Fact.

Thank

Friendly, Theresa, Marc, and 1 other thanked Debi



Harry W. from Eastside · 2h ago

This is awesome!! Housing First WORKS. Emailing and calling now!

Thank

Jo Dean thanked Harry



Debi L. from Mission Grove · 2h ago

I'm a Vietnam Veteran. I know many Vets who are without completely. Home, food you name it. My wife and I recently got my brother in Law into a Trailer. Suffice. Yet the State gives more to Felons , Illegal immigrants and Refugees. V.A. is a Joke on top of it. You will never shut me up. Never.

Thank

Gary, Theresa, Marc, and 1 other thanked Debi



Debi L. from Mission Grove · 2h ago

Our Governor purposely keeps jobs from the State. Your a loser as a representative and worker for OUR State.

Thank

Marc thanked Debi



Mike T. from Mission Grove · 2h ago

Any plan should include a city photo ID that is started long before any housing plan is implemented. Then when hundreds of new homeless come to our city to take advantage of our free stuff, they can be told this is only for people who were in our city months ago. And we will know them by their ID.

Thank

Michael, Christopher, Billy, and 4 others thanked Mike



(/communications/Officer Phil Pitchford (/profile/5183139/) from City of Riverside (/agency/527013/) · 2h ago

Debi L., nobody is trying to shut you up. Quite the contrary, we post here to try to engage with the community.

The Office of Homeless Solutions was created with existing staff, so there is not an added cost to the City of Riverside.

As you may know, the City of Riverside successfully housed all of its homeless veterans following a challenge from then-President Obama, and endeavors to keep the number of homeless veterans in Riverside at zero. If you know a veteran who is homeless, please contact the Office of Homeless Solutions so they can begin outreach.

Finally, I do not work for the State of California, only the City of Riverside. Thank you for your comments.

Karen, Gail, and Maureen thanked you



Sara Z. from Downtown · 1h ago

Phil - in Appendix M, what does the green highlight mean over some of the rows? Thank you.

Thank



Linda H. from Alessandro Heights · 1h ago

I am hopeful and glad that Riverside noticed the need to help our homeless. The fires that start in the Santa Ana river bottom cost the taxpayers a lot of money not to mention the poor homeowners that are affected who live nearby the river bottom. My personal experience with the homeless was having my back window on my van shot out with a Bebe pellet when they were "hunting for food" and missed their target. This was on Wood and Van Buren a few years back. I pray for all involved to have the right answers in helping them.

Thank

Jo Dean thanked Linda



Ms A. from Canyon Crest · 1h ago

Wonderful!

Thank

Gail and Jo Dean thanked Ms



Chuck D. from La Sierra Hills · 1h ago

The biggest issue with "Housing First" is there is no requirement for sobriety or even attempting to get sober. All participants should, at a minimum, be in a program to get them sober. If not, we as taxpayers are simply supporting their habit, that is not right. Here are a couple of quotes from the website referenced above, specifically the "Housing First Principles" document:

"Tenant screening and selection practices promote accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services."

"The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction."

Edited 1h ago

Thank

Ann thanked Chuck



David S. from University · 1h ago

Why can't they somehow pay them to pick up there trash , I would be happy with that. I like Debbie's post about felons. I worked correction they get great medical and prescription drugs but not Generic brand that I get. We are letting them out early because of overcrowding ,this is why the homeless population has tripled over the last 3 yrs

Thank



Bobby D. from Grand Neighbors · 1h ago

"permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements"

Great now the drug addicts get rewarded this will only cause more damage!

Thank



Chuck D. from La Sierra Hills · 1h ago

Please, everyone, go read <http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolut...>
(http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolutions/pdf/CSH_Housing_First_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

There is also no requirement for any kind of mental health screening or requirement to take their medications, if required.

As far as I can see, the recipients of all these taxpayer dollars have to do absolutely NOTHING!

Thank



Gary D. from Victoria · 1h ago

The city needs to provide a safety net not a hammock, If they get everything they need, why work for it?...my three cents.

Thank



Karen R. from Downtown · 56m ago

Glad for the opportunity to offer my considerable opinion to the City on this subject. I've been thinking about it a lot lately.

Regarding the "Housing First" program, first attempted in Utah: It doesn't work. The early reports that it was a raging success are not accurate. When the facts of its failure came to light homeless activists, politicians and the media ignored them. It doesn't work because lack of housing for homeless people is not the problem.

Riverside has a multitude of programs for homeless people. Forty years ago our city had very few people living in the streets--mainly drunks, a few mentally-ill individuals who'd been released from secure facilities, and a few drug addicts. Then churches and charities began their free meal programs.

The way it looks to me, as the charity increased so did the homeless population. It is easy to survive in the streets here--you can do pretty much whatever you want wherever you want, be fed every day by some church or organization with no questions asked, make a living as a petty thief without fear of punishment because your class of criminal activity isn't considered serious, and thumb your nose at law-abiding people who work at an honest job for a living. After all, their greed is the cause of all your misery.

The more we offer the worse it will get.

The only way to turn this around is for homeless individuals to be screened:

- 1) If they are mentally-ill they should be sent to supervised facilities for the care they need;
- 2) If they are veterans they should be referred to a Homeless Veterans program;
- 3) If they are an emancipated foster child, they should be given a safe place to stay, guidance and temporary assistance until they can support themselves;
- 4) If they are a family with children, they should be given a safe place where they can stay together and temporary assistance until they get back on their feet;
- 5) If they are an addict and they want to go straight, they can be referred to a recovery program three times--after that they should be charged with vagrancy and told to leave town;
- 6) If they are able-bodied, sober, and still refuse to work at an honest job they should be charged with vagrancy and told to leave town;
- 7) If they have a criminal record, they should not be given any assistance from the public or the private sector but told to leave town.

Addicts and criminals who want to go straight have a multitude of options and they can start just by calling 211.

No, I do not feel sorry for homeless people. They have more rights than I do. Local, state and federal law make it impossible for my neighbors and I to protect ourselves from their "lifestyle". The police have their hands tied. And the homeless advocates say I am mean-spirited because I believe in the Laws of Cause and Effect to which everyone, even homeless people, is held accountable.

Either we pursue real-world solutions or the problem will drive decent

people out of Riverside.

God bless you all, good neighbors! Stay the course!

Thank

Chuck and Bobby thanked Karen



Billy C. from Canyon Crest · 56m ago

For a multitude of reasons (which should be both obvious and common sense) this is a horrifically bad idea.

It wasn't bad enough to not put drug addicts and criminals in jail (leaving them on the street to commit yet more crime), you now want to provide them subsidized permanent housing (subsidized by your law abiding and income producing residents) WITHOUT consideration of their drug addiction or criminal behavior to attain or keep said housing?

There are a multitude of programs and paths for people who are homeless by circumstance who want to get themselves out of that. Your proposal is centered on those who have chosen this path - and you are proposing to reward it?

Unbelievable.....

Thank

Bobby thanked Billy



Mercy M. from Victoria · 50m ago

I have read the draft, but I didn't see anything about training, mental health, where and how are the homeless going to get jobs. You can house them, but how are you going to get them to work?

Thank

Bobby thanked Mercy



Bobby D. from Grand Neighbors · 31m ago

When will people learn giving more to the people who choose this life style won't solve anything! Offer services to the mentally ill is one thing but rewarding the ones who have no legitimate problems other than their own dumb choices is enabling them. Only way people will change their lifestyle is if they want to. Cut off all aid to people that won't enroll in a rehab or some type of job training and watch how the homeless suddenly start to become productive citizens.

Thank



Allison H. from Wood Streets · 24m ago

Thank you. A start! How about a service center that is expedited one-stop shopping for resource access and urgent care?

Thank



Communications Officer Phil Pitchford (/profile/5183139/) from City of Riverside (/agency/527013/) · 1m ago

Thank you for your comments, everyone. I am not an expert on Housing First, and I am hoping to touch base with a colleague today to more specifically answer some of the concerns expressed here.

I do know from working on the public information side of the equation that Housing First is designed to provide housing with what are typically referred to as "wrap-around service," which include drug/alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, employment assistance, etc.

It is fair to say there is not a unanimous agreement about whether Housing First is the best way to proceed, in part because of some of the questions and concerns expressed here. But it is believed to be, overall, the most effective approach, especially compared to the alternative.

In short, it is not realistic to think that somebody who is suffering from one or more of the issues mentioned -- substance abuse, mental illness, unemployment -- is going to overcome those issues while still on the streets. In that scenario, very few people would ever get housing and the overall number of homeless people would never decline.

It's also worth noting that Housing First is designed for people who want to do the work -- on their sobriety, at a job, etc -- that it takes to change your own life path. It is not designed for people who just want a place to crash while continuing self-destructive habits that contributed to them being homeless in the first place.

There's obviously a lot to unpack here. I will post answers to additional questions as time allows. Please continue to engage with us and make your feelings known. This final paragraph of the press release tells you how:

The City encourages comments from residents, stakeholders, and regional government partners throughout the month of January. After reading the Housing First Plan, citizens can email comments to H1plancomment@riversideca.gov (<mailto:H1plancomment@riversideca.gov>) . Comments also can be mailed to: City of Riverside Housing Authority, ATTN: H1 Plan Comment, 3900 Main Street, Riverside CA 92522.

Write a reply...



McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 1, 2018 4:14 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Housing First Plan

Comments from the Housing Authority.

For the list you are now starting.

Thank you,

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: Walsh, Michael [MFWalsh@rivco.org]
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Cc: Adams, Stephanie
Subject: RE: [External] Housing First Plan

Emilio,

I finished reading through the plan, and below are some comments, questions, ideas, etc.

1. There is a move by the State to promote more integrated housing developments. Where in the past the State was looking to fund 100% special needs developments there is more of a need to create integrated communities. Now in order to compete in the Non-Profit Homeless Set-aside you only have to be 50% homeless to qualify. Additionally, just to qualify as special needs only 45% of the units need to meet that threshold for TCAC. I mention this only to suggest the plan incentivize the development of mixed housing developments. From an underwriting standpoint they are a lot cleaner for the tax credit investor, and they are not as expensive to operate.
2. The developer list isn't great because it doesn't take into account a number of the developers already in the market place. I didn't see Mercy, A Community of Friends, Chelsea, Wakeland, Bridge, CVHC, Palm, National CORE, etc. on the list of potential developers that do special needs housing. Some of the developers may have done 4% deals and didn't worry about going forward with the special needs labels, but I know all of these groups have done deals in the last 5 years for special needs populations.
3. If the City could save on the \$1.4 million it spends annually on police and fire calls the City could look at taking those savings for the development of permanent supportive housing. Some communities have issued Social Impact Bonds to fund endeavors to reduce recidivism rates, but the City could look at the potential of issuing Social Impact Bonds for the Housing First Initiative. The MacArthur Foundation and other large grantors have looked at purchasing the bonds.
4. Don't you have more than 19 beds of Permanent Supportive Housing in the City? Cedar Glenn and Vintage at Snowberry have 30 units of MHSA units at them, and Geel Place has 45 units of housing for those with special needs. I should know this answer but how are the 1,538 permanent supportive housing vouchers calculated? I am going to ask our team as well, but if you know offhand it is appreciated.
5. I am not sure if you heard about this but apparently the County is involved with a Whole Person Care Program where they are part of a Pilot Program that takes a portion of the Medi-Cal proceeds for housing first related activities. They are receiving \$7 million annually through 2021 I believe to operate the program. I just read about this program today, and the Housing Authority isn't really involved in the plan. The plan is mostly funding what I see as existing operations, but if tweaked the funds could be modified for what I see as more effective Housing First Activities. Potentially the

integration of health clinics into developments with permanent affordable housing. The County is working with Desert AIDS Project on just this in Palm Springs. DAP is looking to expand the affordable housing options on their campus to produce better long term health outcomes. This idea is mentioned on page 13 of the plan, but it does not discuss the County's existing plan.

6. What does it mean by Permanent Supportive Housing Programs? I know what it means in concept, but I couldn't figure out where that was defined in the document. It may be in there, but I thought the language could be clearer.

7. There is a current NOFA out for Infill Housing Grant funds. Not sure how much money is left in that pot, but may want to add it to the funding options.

8. Are you ok with the way the funds will come down from the State as part of the Building Homes and Jobs Act? One of the recommendations should be to ensure that the City of Riverside and the County of Riverside as a whole gets its fair share of the funds. We are hearing from some of the supervisors a concern that these funds will be allocated like the No Place Like Home Funds. Under that program LA gets almost everything and we are fighting over the scraps.

9. Another policy recommendation is for all affordable housing to be over the counter applications as long as they meet the sites that are designated as part of the plan. This would speed up the process, and would avoid some NIMBY issues on developments. The SB 2 could be used to fund the Environmental to make that a reality. The City of Santa Monica has a similar plan.

10. You mention parking reduction as a cost issue (and it is), but another driver of costs are the size of the units. I am not sure what the minimum unit sizes are in the City of Riverside. If they aren't already, a recommendation should be to lower them to the sizes specified by TCAC. Again I don't know enough about the City of Riverside's requirements, but many jurisdictions in Riverside County require large patios, balconies, etc. Another recommendation should be to meet with the Planning Department to determine if there are items in the zoning code that can be tweaked to lower overall costs of the development.

11. I don't necessarily agree with the Housing Typologies that are described. I am not sure what they are trying to get out with what they wrote, but the descriptions are not accurate and misleading in most cases. Riverside is a big City and multi-story in the downtown should look different from multi-story by HACR. In downtown the City should be encouraging higher density development that goes 5 plus stories, and by HACR three stories is probably more appropriate with how low dense the area is. I would have this section dovetail with what is in your existing zoning code. This would be the simplest way of describing what you are looking for on the various sites.

Emilio, if you want to meet to discuss the plan please let me know. I think overall the plan is good, and we at the County look forward to working with you to bring the plan to fruition.

If you have any questions or comments do not hesitate to let me know.

Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Ramirez, Emilio [mailto:ERamirez@riversideca.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 1:26 PM

To: Walsh, Michael <MFWalsh@rivco.org>

Cc: Adams, Stephanie <SJAdams@RIVCO.ORG>

Subject: RE: [External] Housing First Plan

Cool.

Thank you,

Office of Homeless Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Walsh, Michael [mailto:MFWalsh@rivco.org]

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 1:25 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Cc: Adams, Stephanie
Subject: Re: [External] Housing First Plan

Started. Will have some comments to you by the end of the week.

Mike

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 26, 2017, at 1:03 PM, Ramirez, Emilio <ERamirez@riversideca.gov> wrote:

>

> Did you review?

>

> Thank you,

>

> Office of Homeless Solutions

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Adams, Stephanie [mailto:SJAdams@RIVCO.ORG]

> Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 6:46 PM

> To: Ramirez, Emilio

> Cc: Walsh, Michael

> Subject: Re: [External] Housing First Plan

>

> Are you still posting for public comment on January 2nd?

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Dec 20, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Ramirez, Emilio <ERamirez@riversideca.gov> wrote:

>>

>> yes. darn. i forgot. i will send tomorrow. thank you for the reminder.

>>

>> Thank you,

>>

>> Office of Homeless Solutions

>>

>>

>> -----
>> From: Adams, Stephanie [SJAdams@RIVCO.ORG]

>> Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 6:43 PM

>> To: Ramirez, Emilio

>> Cc: Walsh, Michael

>> Subject: [External] Housing First Plan

>>

>> Emilio, just a reminder to please send us over the housing first plan and let us know which pages specifically reference any county (housing authority) partnerships.

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>> Confidentiality Disclaimer

>>

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>> County of Riverside California

<<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.countyofriverside.us%2F&data=02%7C01%7CSJAdams%40RIVCO.ORG%7C1d11505ce8a14c65a71008d5481ce209%7Cd7f03410e0a84159b30054980ef605d0%7C1%7C0%7C636494211266030268&sdata=C94MgNJ%2BK5CfUzvHUcfdmjkOFktzIqiM4I%2BYjbOT9kl%3D&reserved=0>>

eryland@icloud.com

My name is Elisabeth Ryland and I live on Mt. Rubidoux Drive.

I myself was evacuated during the recent fire and am spending a fortune on having palm trees trimmed and a one hundred year old tree removed. It caught fire, I saw smoke come out of it as the firemen were telling me to LEAVE NOW.

Anyway, here is a suggestion for raising money to help with the homeless.

I don't know much about public funding.

This is about involving private charity.

Many organizations solicit private donations.

For example, at Christmas, I gave my grandchildren donations in their names to an organization called World Vision, which gives poor families in the third world goats, ducks and rabbits. Maybe they would rather have had electronics, I don't know.

In the fall, my socially conscious nephew in Denmark had a donation made in his name to Puerto Rico, through UNICEF, and this was just exactly what he wanted.

Years ago I remember sponsoring a girl in Haiti through an organization whose name I can't remember any more.

My idea is to set up a program where Organization, Churches or Private Citizens can sponsor a homeless person, sort of like the signs you see on streets where a company has adopted a highway. An organization could "adopt a homeless person" – a homeless vet, a homeless family.

People with experience in these matters could work out the logistics.

I'm considering these ideas as adjuncts to the efforts of the city of Riverside.

Who knows, this might really catch on.

**JEFF,
COMMENTS
FROM A
RESIDENT
TIANIC
EMILU**

PSHplancomment

From: JAMES WRIGHT <lonewolfjw33@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 11:02 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Fw: site 3 ward 3. 1/16/2018

On Wednesday, January 17, 2018 10:26 AM, JAMES WRIGHT <lonewolfjw33@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

On Tuesday, January 16, 2018 1:22 PM, JAMES WRIGHT <lonewolfjw33@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

To: Amillio Ramirez. Michelle Davis. And to whom it may concern. I am requesting to be made aware, and to be included in any and all decisions, in the ward three H1plan. This neighborhood already is saturated with group homes, halfway houses and HUD. homes. We have parking problems on this street. Case # 16-05191. We have kids from other group homes hanging out across the street from my house. This can be verified by talking to my neighbors. I feel we are already out of compliance. Please research this, it could save you some time. James Wright 6137 Nogales street. 951-402-5810 1/16/2018

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 1:17 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Re: Homeless

Comments to the plan

Thank You,

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: Perry, Jim
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 12:38 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: Fwd: [External] Re: Homeless

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris MacArthur <chhemac@gmail.com>
Date: January 15, 2018 at 11:52:48 AM PST
To: Edy Adkison <EAdkison@adkan.com>
Cc: "Conder, Chuck (CConder@riversideca.gov)" <CConder@riversideca.gov>, "sadams@riversideca.gov" <sadams@riversideca.gov>, "Gardner, Mike (MGardner@riversideca.gov)" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>, "Soubirous, Mike" <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>, "Jim Perry (jperry@riversideca.gov)" <jperry@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Homeless

Ed:

These are all great comments and need to be submitted (with your permission) as part of the record. We are all looking for solutions to this very frustrating situation. I will call you this week, so we can speak in more detail.

Thanks,

Chris Mac Arthur
Council Member, Ward 5
City of Riverside

On Jan 15, 2018, at 9:49 AM, Edy Adkison <EAdkison@adkan.com> wrote:

Good Morning

At Monroe Street underneath the 91 freeway are about 7 or 8 (the number keeps growing) shopping carts full of junk. (the shopping carts appear to be tied together). They have been there since a few days before the last rain encounter. I called them in a week ago or so. They are blocking access (especially ADA) through the sidewalk. But most important, they are not used for sleeping, a constitutional right, but rather no use at all during the last week except for someone moving his junk pile around. I understand you need a 72 hour notice, thanks to Sacramento, in order for the homeless to remove his personal belongings.

The solution is not to move this crap from one spot to another and if he can't do it within 72 hours, throw out what's left . Quit enabling these individuals. Blocking ADA compliance or complying with homeless laws is a pretty simple choice.

In regards to your homeless program. It shows new housing in the past for homeless. (like the 20 unit apartment and of course subsidized shown on your homeless web page) This is crazy, the homeless moves to a brand new apartment complex which standard of living is higher than most of the taxpayers funding the homeless project. In my days growing up, we really didn't have a homeless problem. The poor lived in trailer villages, the worst ones were called trailer trash, which is a step up from tents being pitched anywhere they want.

The codes and regulations and costs associated thereto have caused the elimination of a tier in the social economic housing element. The homeless will only get worse and Sacramento hasn't the slightest idea of fixing it, other than throwing money at it.

A comment for your homeless study—

1. How about some more trailer parks and or mobile home parks (a start to re-inventing the economic housing tier that got lost). And don't condition the home parks with all the Disney land fluff that puts them out of financial reach.
2. Instead of building a brand new apartment complex for the homeless transition, . How about buying an older complexes and converting them (less money on a per unit basis).
3. How about converting the Rancho La Sierra property to a mega Mobile home park as one example.

Unfortunately local agencies have to take the bad with the good and setting standards so high because they don't want the bad will continue to cause a larger homeless population.

My concern is the growth of shopping carts on Monroe will continue because it is allowed?

Just my thoughts for the day.

Ed Adkison, P.L.S.
President
adkan Engineers

6879 Airport Drive
Riverside, CA 92504
Tel: 951.688.0241
Fax: 951.688.0599
eadkison@adkan.com
www.adkan.com

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 1:15 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Road map - feedback

For the comment list.

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: Austin Johnson [mailto:austinj@ucr.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 3:05 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: [External] Road map - feedback

Hi Emilio,

My name's Austin Johnson; I'm a faculty member at UCR, and I've been a resident of Riverside for the past two and a half years. My wife and I live at 4151 Ramona Drive with our one-year-old son. I've reviewed the discussion draft of the Housing First strategy that's available on the city's website, and I'm writing to express my complete support for this project. I would welcome a PSH development in Ward 1, and will work to make sure my neighbors understand the benefits of a PSH development as well. If there are any opportunities for the public to become involved, express support, and provide additional input into this project, my wife and I would like to become much more involved in Riverside's efforts to end homelessness and develop long-term policies that respect the dignity and needs of all individuals in our community.

Looking forward to hearing back from you.

All the best,
Austin

Austin H. Johnson, PhD, LP, BCBA
School Psychology, Graduate School of Education
University of California, Riverside
Email: austin.johnson@ucr.edu
Phone: [951-827-5958](tel:951-827-5958)

PSHplancomment

From: larry quintero <qyrral@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2018 1:25 AM
To: PSHplancomment; PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] feedback on housing first

First of all, I'd like to express my approval and praise you for your altruistic ideas for helping those in need. It was a refreshing change to read about what Housing First wants to do. Unfortunately it seems most cities and counties take all sorts of government funding and tax dollars and simply push these human beings from one place to another in their misguided efforts to sweep these people in need under the carpet and out of sight, seemingly so they can pretend they are doing something good about homelessness.

I think the strongest idea you have is "no conditions." I've read interviews where homeless people decline aid because of conditions and "punishment based sanctions if "conditions" are not met or followed, which I believe is a strategy this country needs to rethink, as it sure looks like this strategy exasperates their "problem." I believe this will bring the ones that are serious about turning their life around and ending the cycle of homelessness to the front of the line. I would like to suggest a screening process to weed out those who aren't willing to help themselves and are simply looking to get something for nothing. The screening process should also break the homeless group into various categories; seniors, people with children, people with drug and or psychological needs, people with medical needs, etc. I would keep this screening process as simple as possible.

I live in the Coachella Valley and spend alot of time in cities like Palm Springs where there is a large and visible homeless population. After reading several articles in the Orange County Register about all of the "problems" (how they view homelessness) they seem to have with this class of citizen I became curious. When in Palm Springs I would ask shopkeepers at various establishments I frequent about problems caused by homeless people. The answer from most of these people was that homeless people weren't a problem. They weren't stealing or causing disturbances, etc. I eat at different restaurants there and usually sit outside. I see many homeless people yet I have never witnessed anything that comes close to antisocial behavior from any of them. perhaps taking a look at what some of these cities are doing may help refine your strategy. I also suggest a nonprofit branch of Housing First if legally possible to help defray costs. If that isn't possible perhaps one of the Faith based partners can get a 501 C-3 specifically to donate to Housing First. And if that is not a viable option maybe Housing First could set up a non city, county or state affiliated homeless advocacy group which would be armed with a 501 C-3, but I would take a look at the ethical angle on that one.

Once again; I can't tell you how good I felt when I read of what you want to do. Keep up the good work.

Larry Q

PSHplancomment

From: 9513676790@mms.att.net
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2018 7:47 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External]

I've heard the director of the housing first program Emilio Ramirez speak several times. The first time was at the Presbyterian Church where he said the 389 people they want to house are families with children. The next time he spoke at a Dana meeting and said the 389 people they want to house are the most serious cases with mental illness and addiction and it wasn't for families. This makes many of us feel very suspicious of what this program is really about. He also said there would be 24-hour policing and mental health professionals living there to assist these residents. Then he backtracked on that and said oh that's not what was said. I heard it, so did everyone else. I don't trust that we are being told the truth and I am against this because of so many irregularities in how this program has been presented to the neighborhood groups. I also find it hard to believe that there are only 389 homeless people in Riverside. This is just something else that makes me doubt if we are being told the truth.

PSHplancomment

From: Lauren Leinz <lleinz2003@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2018 7:50 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] The Housing First Plan

Good Morning-

I have read the city's proposal for the Housing First Plan, and it makes me proud to be a resident of the city of Riverside. It is reassuring that there are local politicians and staff who are concerned for the underprivileged men, women and children of the city, and that they are actively involved in finding a solution that will benefit all citizens. There are, of course, challenges that will have to be overcome, such as locating appropriate sites, acquiring funding, and working out the logistics and implementation, but I am confident that you will find a way to achieve those goals.

I have a request, however, to those at the helm of this program to please consider widening their scope to include those persons who might otherwise "fall through the cracks". Our adult son has suffered from schizo-affective disorder for about 15 years. He is unable to care for himself, and the financial, physical and emotional burden of caring for him ourselves (or being his conservators) is too overwhelming. At present, our son is not homeless. He is currently living at a licensed board and care facility and is under conservatorship with the County of Riverside. Unfortunately, due to the large numbers of mentally disabled in Riverside County, the funds are inadequate and available housing is practically nonexistent. Most of Riverside County's mental health facilities are overcrowded, unsafe and unclean. As residents at these facilities become stabilized, they continue to be housed in an unsafe environment with unstable and aggressive individuals, as they are still unable to care for themselves. When a conservatee (like our son) expresses a desire to progress to the next step, they are told they must wait until a court deems them healthy enough to care for themselves (which is an unrealistic goal for a majority of them). Many will lose hope and end up in jail, in a hospital or in a morgue.

Recently, our son has set his hopes on Geel Place apartments, a county-subsidized housing program for the mentally disabled in Riverside. His caseworker inquired for him and was told that he cannot be placed on the 2-3 year waiting list until he is off county conservatorship. However, persons who are under "private" conservatorship are allowed to live there. There is also an in-home assistance program available and an in-home caseworker on site, which would help fill in the gaps until he became more independent. Unfortunately, Geel Place does not appear to be an option for our son, and there are no other housing options for someone in his situation.

Please consider including *all* of the mentally disabled living in the city of Riverside in your Housing First Plan. Their lives may depend on it. I cannot speak for the other tax-paying citizens, but my husband and I would gladly pay higher taxes for our son and others like him to have a chance to live a better life.

Thank you for your efforts,
Lauren Leinz

PSHplancomment

From: Leslie Ross <leslie.ross@nuventory.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 10:01 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First

I am a firm believer in Housing First.

1. The fire and police resources are being over taxed by the issues caused by homelessness
2. Rousting the homeless to "Move On" just moves the problem to a different location
3. Most of the chronic homeless are drug addicts who do not want to give up the drugs. But just because they have issues, doesn't mean they should freeze to death and be shunned. It's not going to stop them from doing the drugs. Give them shelter and basic necessities so they don't use our yards as toilets.
4. Shelters are a temporary solution and not a long term solution

I fully support this idea and it's time to do something different because our current solutions are clearly not working! San Bernardino should be looking at Riverside to solve the issues they have with homeless campers on freeway offramp corners!

Santa Ana River homeless encampment is another problem that has no solution other than "move them on". But where does anyone expect them to go?

Thank you for finally giving a humane solution to a very difficult and complex problem.

Leslie Ross

Leslie Ross, CEO
NuVentory, LLC
(951) 403-7806
www.nuventory.com

PSHplancomment

From: jeff bottini <jeffbottini@att.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 2:03 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless housing

I manage 6 commercial buildings downtown and by the plaza and deal with the homeless every day, I have conversations with them almost every day and explain to them that if they don't show up during business hours and clean up after themselves and not to break anything or graffiti on anything nobody will give them a hard time, but that being said it is a everyday costly battle to get them to leave and to clean up after then an to fix all the things they break, it cost the owner of the buildings from 1000 to 3000 per month just on this problem along with tenants threatening to leave. How can we expect them to not turn these housing units into a costly mess where nothing is taken care of?

Thanks Jeff bottini

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

PSHplancomment

From: Theresa Deeds <theresadeeds2@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 2:59 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing

Hello, I think its an amazing idea! I am a single mom and homeless only because I can't afford rent anywhere. I have tried many times to find assistance but, there is never any funding. Please if when you complete this let me know so I hopefully can get some type of housing. Thank you, Theresa

PSHplancomment

From: Sean Monique Faustina - Smolak <SeanFaustina-Smolak@LiveNation.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 8:07 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Fantastic plan! How can I help?

Importance: High

Good afternoon:

I wanted to share my support with you regarding the Housing First Plan and offer my assistance. I am so glad that the focus has rightfully shifted to providing homes and shelter for those who need it the most. I have always felt that Homelessness is Not An Option, so it is absolutely wonderful that this is happening: Pathways to Housing is guided by the vision that housing is a basic human right and its operating model states: "We start by housing people directly from the streets, without precondition. Then we address their underlying issues around mental health, addiction, medical care, income, and education to help integrate and welcome them back into our community."²⁴

Please let me know how I can help and thank you for making this happen!

Sincerely,

Sean Monique Faustina-Smolak | Director of Sales – Fox Performing Arts Center & Riverside Municipal Auditorium |

House of Blues Entertainment

Email: seanfaustina-smolak@livenation.com

Phone: (951) 335-3463 Cell: (951) 965-1390

3801 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501

www.riversidelive.com



PSHplancomment

From: Kurt Graves <kurt.graves@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 8:26 PM
To: Davis, Michelle; PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homelessness - A voice within

Good evening,

I read your article in the Press Enterprise via my phone while parked in a parking lot. Yes, I agree homelessness is an intriguing issue; sometimes close to heart, other times to sweep it under, and sometimes for real change and reflection.

I'm currently homeless, going on two years.

The core of homelessness, as I'm sure you know, is not always clear, and may have many levels and facets. From the bottom of the spectrum and suffering beyond comprehension.. to the person sitting right next to you. For you never know, they could be homeless too.

While in college (CSUSB), I did a study to see the how, what, and why, and sought to link homeless citizens with differing programs and services. I also used GIS and modeled each program and/or services available and cross-referenced notable areas (i.e. parks, neighborhoods, known homeless areas). Similarly, I created comment cards and did interviews within the homeless community.

What I found.. There is a lot more going on than what meets the eye, or ears for that matter. First of all, Thank you for taking the time.. to Care.

Like law, it is not knowing the law, but where to find the law... same premis here. I created lamenated 4x6 cards with important information for services etc. during my survey and passed them out. Who to call, where to seek help, where to go. I think that would help.

Also, 80% of people who knowingly need help will seek it in some form. Other times their mind is not their own and seek to stay away.. casted out by self and society.

Again, knowlege is key and linking individuals with the right services is enlightenment ~ on both sides of the pie.

Me.. I'm a Veteran, have two BAs, and work for the State. And even I myself find the exaberrated cost of everything as part of the issue. Disneyland? Ha yeah right.. Even a \$4 burrito is pushing it. And it's only going to get worse.

Homelessness has many parameters.. On the street, or in you car like me, to couch surfing freshman trying to just survive.

I chose homelessness. Why? To end the cycle of paying high costs to just break even. Eating is bare, you cut corners, you find solitude in your thoughts.

Still, society casts down the homeless, or even people on the edge. Although 50% of most families are on the verge as well.

All walks of life.. protect them, serve them. And don't judge - half of them are probably sitting right next to you.

I'm one of the lucky ones..even vanpool to work, take showers at the gym, and pick up my three kids on the weekends.. But yes, I'm homeless as well, and so are the other 5 to 10 cars I often see parked in the same places next to me.. it's no secret. A safe place to park in Riversie would be nice.. believe me everyone locks their car door.

But first, help those who need it the most. The ones you see on 14th.. every local park.. in front of 7-Eleven.. the one you may of almost ran over who was yelling while crossing the street.. or in our cars..all here, surviving.

They need a living space, a friend, heathcare access, a place to shower, a parking spot, somewhere to clean clothes, childcare services, a job manageable by the individual, food, gas, a chain for their bike, shoes to walk in.

..a smile.

A voice within,
Kurt Graves

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

PSHplancomment

From: david pedroza <davidpedroza90@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 10:15 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Please don't do it

Hello my name is David pedroza and I recently bought my first home 2 yrs ago at the age of 25 so its a huge acomplishment for me my wife and 2 daughters . I live 6 homes from the lot off jurupa and Chester which is a candidate for the immediate housing and I can't help but think about the negatives. Like will the government funding be enough or will it be used for what its intended for and not have higher property tax to cover expenses will it lower my property value or what standards if any will the program have as far as criminal records mental stability. I have read the positive impact that is expected out of this program but I don't see it happening. I love my home and this great city but I will put my home for sale before I put my family in any type of risk because I do see it as a risk to the residents in the immediate area i never seen a homeless person in my neighborhood and to think of having a whole complex filled so close to home is just upsetting it's quiet and I want it to stay that way. I wish I had a better solution but I don't I do believe in helping our fellow man and I try in my own ways when i can but I am also human with human instincts to protect the things I love and work very hard for and this project has me on high alert and is stressing. I am counting on a better solution because to me this isn't a good one. If you actually read this thank you for your time

PSHplancomment

From: Nick Boyes <cainterfill@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 8:16 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First Strategy

Hello have a few questions about housing first

“permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements”

1. Why are we giving drug addicts rewards for bad choices?
2. Where will the funding be coming from to house these individuals?
3. How will these individuals change their lifestyle if no requirements are made for them?
4. Where will this housing be located?

Will be waiting for your response thank you
Nick Boyes

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Denise Williams <blubela@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 5:57 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comments

Good afternoon,

First, thank you for undertaking this program in an effort to help those in our city who are on the verge of or are homeless. This population is diverse and includes children.

While there may be a small percentage of individuals who choose this as a lifestyle, the majority of those do not, could be our family members or friends, or could be us.

Initial suggestions I have after review of the plan are (in no particular order):

- 1) Include as a component of the plan on-going outreach, feedback across the community, businesses and nonprofit organizations in order to network, share information, and identify needed resources
- 2) Explore feasibility of utilizing vacant buildings such former schools and vacant industrial buildings as options for housing.
- 3) Network with local school districts to establish a program with nutrition services for donations of unused food that would otherwise be thrown away daily.
- 4) Network with RTA to establish transportation vouchers to be used for medical appointments, work, or school.
- 5) Incorporate fundraising efforts in established events.
- 6) Publicize successes of the program.
- 7) Establish an ad-hoc committee for the purposes of community involvement and support of the program and its success.

Those are my suggestions initially which I hope you find beneficial. I appreciate the opportunity for input and in receiving the communication updates regarding our City.

Best regards,

Denise Williams
(951) 286-0874

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Erin Edwards <ee.edwards12@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2018 9:09 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Support for Housing First Model

Hello,

I am from Ward 1 and I am in strong support of the housing first plan. Thank you so much to everyone involved for all their hard work bringing this model to Riverside.

-Erin Edwards

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: john hickling <jc_hickling@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2018 5:43 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Cynthia Hickling

I live in ward 6 and I am harassed every single day I go out by transients. Whether it is to put gas in the car, buy groceries, or worse take my child to the park or library. Our quality of life is going down here in Riverside. Crime is up in our neighborhood and I no longer feel safe. Your idea of Housing First" would be great if these transients wanted a way out and lead productive lives. But most don't and I think first we need to get them off the streets and if there are not enough beds in the shelter, then build a larger away. But these shelters need to be away from our family neighborhoods. And why is our city allowing homeless people to encroach all over the city? Especially where children gather?



Virus-free. www.avg.com

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Jerry Good <jhg999@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 6, 2018 11:03 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comment from meeting

Asking for Measure Z funds is not a great idea. Was not mentioned during campaign for that vote.

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Frank Mihelich <fmihelich@calbaptist.edu>
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2018 2:08 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: RK Skove; Jeff Wright; Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: [External] Housing First Comment & Suggestion

To Whom May Concern,

I had the great privilege of attending the Housing First community talk lead by Emilio Ramirez at Arlington Library on Saturday January 6th. Mr. Ramirez led a lively and needed conversation about homelessness in Riverside and the city's proposed plan to deal with our citizens that seem to have fallen through the cracks.

I made a suggestion in the meeting and Mr. Ramirez encouraged me to e-mail this address with my thoughts. Thank you for taking the time to consider my idea.

The meeting on Saturday seemed to align itself along the current unhelpful political fault lines that our country is struggling with. The liberals in the room suggested that we get all the homeless off the street and into housing "no questions asked" as soon as possible, to better address their needs and get them back up on their feet. The conservatives in the room felt that giving "handouts" at the tax payers' expense is only going to bring down property values in the areas "forced" to house people who are homeless most often through their poor choices and lack of personal responsibility. It was suggested that these "handouts" will also encourage "vagrants" from other states to move to California where their lack of personal responsibility can be bank rolled at the tax payers expense. I believe that both of these views contain elements of truth, but are ultimately too myopic to solve the problem.

Here is my suggestion:

Offering permanent housing with no hard end date to every homeless person doesn't seem to me to take into consideration the various and complicated reasons, both systemic and personal, that people are homeless. This approach might not be the best use of the city's resources, if the end goal is transformation. I suggest that the Housing First program partners with the current homeless shelters and social workers engaged in this work to identify those in the homeless community that are ready for and would respond well to the services that would help them toward transformation. Once those individuals are identified they can then be invited into a program that has a realistic end date, even if that end date is two or five years from the time they enter the program. The long term, open ended, on going care work that would need to be done after the participant is housed and integrated back into the larger community can be better done through local churches, synagogues, and private community groups.

I believe that this proposal is realistic about the systemic reasons for homelessness and also the personal responsibility that individuals will need to take as they both accept help and learn to help themselves. It highlights that every citizen of Riverside is responsible to help the homeless with our tax money. Often the only thing that separates us from the homeless is the fact that we were born in this neighborhood and not that neighborhood. We are personally responsible to each other.

I believe that a helpful private sector model for this approach is the Bowery Mission in

NYC: <https://www.bowery.org/>

Many elements of this model can be taken on by city government in close partnership with private community groups.

Thank you for listening and I look forward to hearing the city's final plan to deal with this important and delicate issue.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

Frank Mihelich

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Matt Casillas <casillas.matthew23fegr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 12:19 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless community

To whom it may concern,

I am a concerned resident of Riverside Ca. I was reading on what the city of Riverside was considering on their idea of giving shelter the homeless community. I believe that is an idea that should stay an idea. Allowing housing for the homeless community in theory would be a great Good Samaritan idea but in reality will hurt the community. It will attract more homeless to the area. On top of that, it will detour people from living in the area. It will also detour people from wanting to buy in the area as well. It would be more of a safety concern when there are more homeless arriving to the area to seek shelter. There is not one area in particular that I would not like to see these homes built. I don't think it is a smart idea for any homes to be built anywhere in Riverside. Please think about the community when these decisions are made. Do not just think of the positives that may come out. It is clear and easy to see that the negatives outweigh the positives on this agenda.

Thank you,

Concerned citizen

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 1:57 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: FW: [External] Suggestions: Housing First presentations

Thank You,

Office of Homeless Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Lane And Susan Cash [mailto:s-cash@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2018 8:04 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Cc: Nguyen, Alexander
Subject: [External] Suggestions: Housing First presentations

Emilio,

I attended the workshop on Housing First last Saturday as I wanted to get a sense of the type of objections that might arise during this process. I am a strong proponent for the proposal and have been working through my church to improve the kinds of services we offer to the homeless in our community.

If you will allow me, I would like to offer some suggestions for your future presentations that might help to clarify the project and reduce the resistance. First, be positive and proud that the city is proposing Housing First to relieve homelessness. Housing First improves the safety and health of the community and the homeless themselves. In the long run it is a more effective and efficient use of community resources. Give some examples of cities that are successfully utilizing Housing First. This strategy offers a better chance of reducing the pain and suffering of people who have fallen through the safety net that most of us enjoy.

When discussing resources needed for the proposal please emphasize the multiple sources - federal, state, grants, etc. The Saturday meeting got stuck on Measure Z, which is contentious in itself.

Please emphasize that vendors will provide services for each Housing First site. The presentation on Saturday used the pronoun, "we", making it seem that Riverside would be providing the services. If there is not a method to assess the effectiveness of the vendor's services, there should be.

When reviewing each project site, please emphasize that some of the sites are locations where agencies and churches have already declared their commitment to Housing First units. This should reduce the impression that the city is the sole contributor of property. Show how beautifully maintained the existing Housing First unit is on Indiana. It is an enhancement to the neighborhood. Give a brief explanation that once Housing First is approved each site will have to go through individual review and approval by the Planning Commission.

Please make sure that the discussion is not monopolized by the most hateful or loudest voices. Set some time limits for each speaker, and courtesy requirements, like not interrupting speakers. If possible, have that managed by someone other than yourself so you can concentrate on addressing each question.

After the community meeting at Calvary Presbyterian Church I will submit feedback to the proposal that can be used in your presentation to Council. Please invite the audience at Calvary to attend the council meeting where this proposal will be presented. The Housing First proposal is an opportunity for the values of the community to guide the approval process.

Please call on me if I can be of help. I hope you will accept these suggestions in the spirit they were offered. I want to help you to be successful in your efforts.

Susan Cash
Sent from my iPad

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: harry.gentywaksberg@gmail.com on behalf of Harry Waksberg
<harry.waksberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 9:37 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Public comment: Housing First

Hello, my name is Harry Waksberg and I'm an Eastside resident. I am VERY GLAD Riverside is pursuing Housing First - this is the most effective model for reducing homelessness, and I absolutely believe it is the right choice for Riverside. I plan to attend future city council meetings where this will be discussed to further voice my support of this plan. Thank you so much for choosing a compassionate and effective solution to homelessness!

Harry Waksberg
harry.waksberg@gmail.com
914-473-3743

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Donatella Galella <donatellagalella@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 10:09 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Support for Housing First

Good morning,

I'm a resident of Ward 1 in Riverside, and I'm writing to support the Housing First program. I believe that the homeless should receive homes and services as the ethical and economical thing to do.

Thank you.

Regards,
Donatella Galella

Donatella Galella, PhD
Assistant Professor
Theatre, Film, and Digital Production
University of California, Riverside

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Tracy S Avery <tracy.avery@ucr.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 10:23 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comments on housing first strategy

I wonder who is going to want unscreened people in their neighborhood and what this will do for property values. I do believe a solution is needed. The problem is out of control. Who is going to help once the building is built? Who will monitor. What is the long term plan. Must these people be citizens? Will these people be registered sex offenders? How close to schools will these community buildings be built? I fear without some rules you are turning a residential building into a crack den.

Tracy Avery
Development Assistant
University of California, Riverside
College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
HMNSS A3412
900 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92521
Tel: 951-827-4290
Fax: 951-827-4537

Read about "Living the Promise: The Campaign for UC Riverside" in the latest [UCR Magazine online](#).

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Chuck Dillon <chuckdillon@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 11:00 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First - Plan comments

The biggest issue with "Housing First" is there is no requirement for sobriety or even an attempt to get sober. All participants should, at a minimum, be in a program to get them sober. If not, we as taxpayers are simply supporting their habit, that is not right. There is also no requirement for any kind of mental health screening or requirement to take their medications, if required.

Here are a couple of quotes from the Housing First website, specifically the "Housing First Principles" document:

"Tenant screening and selection practices promote accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services."

"The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction."

As far as I can see, the recipients of all these taxpayer dollars have to do absolutely NOTHING!

--

Chuck Dillon

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Manalo, Mervyn <MManalo@RIVCO.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 2:45 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Permanent Supportive Housing Projects

I like the examples of supportive housing by Jamboree, BRIDGE Housing and particularly National CORE. I would really like to see a project called Merv's Place in Riverside. It has a nice ring to it.



Mervyn Manalo
Planning Specialist III

mmanalo@rivco.org
www.RivCoEDA.org

**Housing Authority of the
County of Riverside**
5555 Arlington Ave
Riverside, CA 92504
Phone: (951)343-5495

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County of Riverside California

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: CONSTANCE DECKER <conniedecker08@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 4:56 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] HOUSES FIRST COMMENT

NEIGHBORS: This Saturday, January 6th, from 9:00-11:00 at the Arlington Library, the City is sponsoring a workshop on Houses First. If you oppose and have a voice, I would appreciate all of you attending, as Elissa and I will be there, with every intention of SPEAKING UP! The address of the library is 9556 Magnolia, Riverside. SEE YOU THERE!

I don't know where to start with how bad this plan is! Let's start with Elissa's response some time ago. She is a mental health professional. "The passing of those propositions only warrants further protection for this city's residents, as evidenced by the recent surge in crime perpetuated by vagrants. The idea of some sort of utopian society in which accountability is not expected of those that make poor choices is dangerous, period. The city should not decline to enforce vagrancy laws that are already in existence based on this unfounded theory. CONNIE'S ADDITION: WE ARE TOLD THAT RIVERSIDE HAS NO VAGRANTS!!!

There are solutions to this, but they are pragmatic and require the same level of pragmatism from leadership. Appeasing faith based communities should never be a priority, as their philosophies on many issues do not align with all that reside here in Riverside. At this time, residents need some appeasing, not the vagrants and churches. "

- Additionally, there are multiple facets of Houses First that are uninformed. Here are just SOME of the problems with it:
- *No criteria to get in housing
- *NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE THAT THIS SOLVES THE PROBLEM
- *No sobriety required of any kind, and don't have to be in treatment
- *No mentally ill have to be in treatment programs
- *No credit parameters and do not have to be classified as "tenant ready"
- *No explanation as to who is paying for this
- *No information as to the value of our homes IF this is enacted
- *No acknowledgement that more people will be moving to Riverside from other states or counties for the free or cheap rent and Medicaid services that other states refuse to provide
- You say the plan is to vette tenants--to find the ones that truly want to change their life. How? You should know that addicts will tell you anything you want to hear. Notice that the current Homeless Teams that are supposed to be getting "OUR NEIGHBORS WITHOUT HOMES" into treatment, are an abject failure. The homeless appear to be totally happy in their current circumstance. Why shouldn't they?
- I am a compassionate person, not to be confused with ENABLING. I believe in personal responsibility and accountability for your decisions. HOUSES FIRST incorporates none of that. It hasn't worked in the two states that have adopted this. Los Angeles has ongoing prostitution and drug sales going on in HOUSES FIRST. There is NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE that Houses First works because it doesn't.
- Our City leaders appear to not be concerned with what happens to our property values with these facilities embedded in our neighborhoods.
- The City Council could enact various decisions to get rid of these vagrants, but they are so scared of lawsuits that they do nothing to appease US. Am I on the warpath? You bet! THIS California has lost 240,000 taxpayers last year because California has created its own country that is lawless. I'm looking for the door if we cannot change the state and legislative leaders.
- You may have federal grants for some of this now, but it won't be in perpetuity. Then we will have to hand over more dollars to these vagrants, who have no personal accountability.

Additionally, Phil Pitchford indicates that Riverside has limited resources, although we gave the City 50 million MORE dollars every year. What's happening to that money? Oh, that's right. It went to raises and retirement benefits for our public safety officers and City Council. REALLY?

Connie Decker
conniedecker08@gmail.com

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Theresa Hanley <thanley@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 5:36 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comments on the draft plan

Hello . Thank you for sharing the draft plan. We all want to do something about homelessness and everyone has ideas about what is the 'right' thing to do. This plan is based in recent research. Most importantly, it is consistent with existing and developing public policy guidelines and the funding structures that follow those guidelines. For these reasons and because I believe that if each community takes better care to address its homeless issues, no community will be overwhelmed with need, I support the plan in general.

I do have some questions,

- 1) Can you confirm that the city would be in partnership with other entities to build and operate these PSH? Unless I missed it, the processes/criteria for seeking and selecting these partners is not presented in much detail. Is there more information on this – or can you re-direct me to the section of the plan which addresses this? Of specific concern is how the 'wraparound services' and other operational needs will be funded and provided.
- 2) How is the plan expected to intersect with existing affordable housing plans/projects? One item which is of some concern to me is the 'mixed housing.' While I understand the seeming logic of mixing some PSH and affordable housing, as one who has (successfully) raised a child as a single parent (in the earliest years on fully employed but nevertheless low income), I remember well the less than secure housing choices I had. I think it is critical that otherwise capable families are not needlessly exposed to at-risk situations. I suppose this goes back to successful operation and service provisions.
- 3) Has any thought been given to how the recently adopted federal tax 'reform' may affect the funding sections of this plan?
- 4) In Ward three, can you provide more information on the site identified as 'Garden' – is this a street name? perhaps cross streets?

Finally, I learned of the plan's release via Nextdoor. Many thanks to Mr. Pitchford for engaging commenters on that forum in a professional and balanced manner.

Thank you.

Theresa Hanley (Ward 3)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: PHYLLIS ANDERSON <start.to.finish11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 7:48 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First Plan

Absolutely right on point ! I am so proud of our City for taking this on. As a Hospital Administrator in San Bernardino County and a Riverside Resident I know the impact of homelessness on our healthcare systems. There are several studies proving that if we address homelessness just as you are doing we can improve not only quality of life for these individuals (top priority), but the strain on our emergency, police and health care services and ultimately our environment for the residents in our City. I'd love to help in whatever way I can !

Phyllis Anderson RN MA
951-235-7573

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Hoopskyt <hoopskyt@aim.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 10:52 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] homeless

There is not enough housing options available when one finally hits bottom and needs it. Since many are mentally ill, they often suffer from agnosia and are unaware of their mental illness. If by chance they reach out for help, the bureaucratic red tape and long waiting lists eliminate the possibility of getting them help. Mentally ill have limited windows when they are open to help but everything takes too long. Even if they do get help, it's only for a few days and then they are left on their own to try to maneuver the system. They don't have the ability to do that. They need a case worker assigned the minute they are admitted to ETS or the ER. That case worker needs to be there more than once a month at the Blaine Clinic. They need someone to take care of them 24/7 until they get stabilized and by that I mean for at least 6-9 months. The current system makes them fend for themselves. If they were able to do that, they would not be homeless.

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2018 5:33 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: Fwd: [External] Housing First Comment & Suggestion

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Frank Mihelich <fmihelich@calbaptist.edu>
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2018 2:08 PM
Subject: [External] Housing First Comment & Suggestion
To: PSHplancomment <h1plancomment@riversideca.gov>
Cc: RK Skove <rkskove@gmail.com>, Jeff Wright <jeff@madisonstreetchurch.com>, Ramirez, Emilio <eramirez@riversideca.gov>

To Whom May Concern,

I had the great privilege of attending the Housing First community talk lead by Emilio Ramirez at Arlington Library on Saturday January 6th. Mr. Ramirez led a lively and needed conversation about homelessness in Riverside and the city's proposed plan to deal with our citizens that seem to have fallen through the cracks.

I made a suggestion in the meeting and Mr. Ramirez encouraged me to e-mail this address with my thoughts. Thank you for taking the time to consider my idea.

The meeting on Saturday seemed to align itself along the current unhelpful political fault lines that our country is struggling with. The liberals in the room suggested that we get all the homeless off the street and into housing "no questions asked" as soon as possible, to better address their needs and get them back up on their feet. The conservatives in the room felt that giving "handouts" at the tax payers' expense is only going to bring down property values in the areas "forced" to house people who are homeless most often through their poor choices and lack of personal responsibility. It was suggested that these "handouts" will also encourage "vagrants" from other states to move to California where their lack of personal responsibility can be bank rolled at the tax payers expense. I believe that both of these views contain elements of truth, but are ultimately too myopic to solve the problem.

Here is my suggestion:

Offering permanent housing with no hard end date to every homeless person doesn't seem to me to take into consideration the various and complicated reasons, both systemic and personal, that people are homeless. This approach might not be the best use of the city's resources, if the end goal is transformation. I suggest that the Housing First program partners with the current homeless shelters and social workers engaged in this work to identify those in the homeless community that are ready for and would respond well to the services that would help them toward transformation. Once those individuals are identified they can then be invited into a program that has a realistic end date, even if that end date is two or

five years from the time they enter the program. The long term, open ended, on going care work that would need to be done after the participant is housed and integrated back into the larger community can be better done through local churches, synagogues, and private community groups.

I believe that this proposal is realistic about the systemic reasons for homelessness and also the personal responsibility that individuals will need to take as they both accept help and learn to help themselves. It highlights that every citizen of Riverside is responsible to help the homeless with our tax money. Often the only thing that separates us from the homeless is the fact that we were born in this neighborhood and not that neighborhood. We are personally responsible to each other.

I believe that a helpful private sector model for this approach is the Bowery Mission in NYC: <https://www.bowery.org/>

Many elements of this model can be taken on by city government in close partnership with private community groups.

Thank you for listening and I look forward to hearing the city's final plan to deal with this important and delicate issue.

God Bless.

Sincerely,

Frank Mihelich

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Gettis, Erin
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 7:57 AM
To: Davis, Michelle; McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: Fwd: [External] Re: City of Riverside Requests Public Comment on Housing First Strategy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pitchford, Phil" <PPitchford@riversideca.gov>
Date: January 3, 2018 at 6:26:10 PM PST
To: "Gettis, Erin" <EGettis@riversideca.gov>, "Sennewald, Yvette" <YSENNEWALD@riversideca.gov>
Cc: "Guzman, Rafael" <RGuzman@riversideca.gov>, "Zelinka, Al" <azelinka@riversideca.gov>, "Ramirez, Emilio" <ERamirez@riversideca.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] Re: City of Riverside Requests Public Comment on Housing First Strategy

Fyi

Phil Pitchford
Communications Officer
City of Riverside
951.826.5975
951.675.6806 (cell)
ppitchford@riversideca.gov
www.riversideca.gov

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nextdoor <reply@rs.email.nextdoor.com>
Date: January 3, 2018 at 4:49:29 PM PST
To: <ppitchford@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: City of Riverside Requests Public Comment on Housing First Strategy
Reply-To:
<reply+GUYTQMZRGM4V64DSN5SHKY3UNFXW4X2QJ5JVIXZXGM3TSNRZGAZQ====@reply.nextdoor.com>

 Connie D.,

NEIGHBORS: This Saturday, January 6th, from 9:00-11:00 at the Arlington Library, the City is sponsoring a workshop on Houses First. If you oppose and have a voice, I would appreciate all of you attending, as Elissa and I will be there, with every intention of SPEAKING UP! The address of the library is 9556 Magnolia, Riverside. SEE YOU THERE!

I don't know where to start with how bad this plan is! Let's start with Elissa's response some time ago. She is a mental health professional. "The passing of those propositions only warrants further protection for this city's residents, as evidenced by the recent surge in crime perpetuated by vagrants. The idea of some sort of utopian society in which accountability is not expected of those that make poor choices is dangerous, period. The city should not decline to enforce vagrancy laws that are already in existence based on this unfounded theory. CONNIE'S ADDITION: WE ARE TOLD THAT RIVERSIDE HAS NO VAGRANTS!!!

There are solutions to this, but they are pragmatic and require the same level of pragmatism from leadership. Appeasing faith based communities should never be a priority, as their philosophies on many issues do not align with all that reside here in Riverside. At this time, residents need some appeasing, not the vagrants and churches. " Additionally, there are multiple facets of Houses First that are uninformed. Here are just SOME of the problems with it:

- *No criteria to get in housing
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- *No acknowledgement that more people will be moving to Riverside from other states or counties for the free or cheap rent and Medicaid services that other states refuse to provide

You say the plan is to vette tenants--to find the ones that truly want to change their life. How? You should know that addicts will tell you anything you want to hear. Notice that the current Homeless Teams that are supposed to be getting "OUR NEIGHBORS WITHOUT HOMES" into treatment, are an abject failure. The homeless appear to be totally happy in their current circumstance. Why shouldn't they?

I am a compassionate person, not to be confused with ENABLING. I believe in personal responsibility and accountability for your decisions. HOUSES FIRST incorporates none of that. It hasn't worked in the two states that have adopted this. Los Angeles has ongoing prostitution and drug sales going on in HOUSES FIRST. There is NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE that Houses First works because it doesn't.

Our City leaders appear to not be concerned with what happens to our

property values with these facilities embedded in our neighborhoods. The City Council could enact various decisions to get rid of these vagrants, but they are so scared of lawsuits that they do nothing to appease US. Am I on the warpath? You bet! THIS California has lost 240,000 taxpayers last year because California has created its own country that is lawless. I'm looking for the door if we cannot change the state and legislative leaders.

Original post by Communications Officer Phil Pitchford from City of Riverside (31 replies):

The City of Riverside's Office of Homeless Solutions today (1/2) published its draft Housing First strategy, which is designed to reduce the number of people who are homeless, and is seeking the...
Jan 3 in General to subscribers of City of Riverside

[View or reply](#)

[Thank](#) [Private message](#)

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This message is intended for ppitchford@riversideca.gov.
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City of Riverside Requests Public Comment on Housing First Strategy (/news_feed/?post=73796903)

Communications Officer Phil Pitchford (/profile/5183139/) from City of Riverside · 2h ag

The City of Riverside's Office of Homeless Solutions today (1/2) published its dra Housing First strategy, which is designed to reduce the number of people who are homeless, and is seeking the public's comment on the plan through Jan. 25.

The Housing First strategy is a community-based program designed to address homelessness across Riverside, relying on partnerships to develop much-needed projects and programs. The approach is seen as a way to allocate scarce resources to amplify City efforts to combat homelessness.

Responding to a growing incidence of homelessness in the City, and using data from state and local sources, maps and other city records, the Office of Homeless Solutions hopes to utilize the Housing First strategy as a road map to create, implement and operate additional housing in the City of Riverside.

Copies of the Housing First Plan are available on the City's website – <http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolut...>

(<http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolutions/what-are-we-doing/housing-first.asp>) -- and at City libraries, and at the offices of the City Housing Authority, on the 5th Floor of City Hall, 3900 Main Street, and at the Office of the City Clerk, on the 7th floor of City Hall.

"Today, we are proposing a proactive and targeted homeless plan that will benefit residents, businesses, and neighbors who need assistance to lead healthy and productive lives," Mayor Rusty Bailey said. "This Housing First Plan will enable us to assist a greater number of our homeless neighbors."

The Housing First plan is the latest in a series of efforts to combat homelessness. Riverside City Council workshop with a variety of stakeholders to discuss the issue of homelessness within the City suggested Housing First could be a key strategy to implement.

At a follow-up meeting with the City Council regarding homeless policy, the Council directed staff to pursue Housing First. The Housing First Plan, modified with public comment collected this month, is expected to be considered by the City Council on Feb. 27.

"The City of Riverside is working on many fronts to combat homelessness," Mayor Pro Tem Jim Perry said. "I encourage all stakeholders in Riverside to review the Housing First strategy and provide their feedback so the City can achieve the best result."

The Office of Homeless Solutions aims to prevent and reduce homelessness

across Riverside through the mobilization of partnerships at the federal, County, regional, and community levels. These partnerships contribute to sustainable and comprehensive development of services and facilities to help those who are chronically or episodically homeless, or at risk of homelessness, or are part of the hidden homeless population, move towards well-being and self-sufficiency.

“The Housing First Plan is ultimately about assisting the most vulnerable Riverside residents with meeting their needs for basic survival and providing them with general support as they begin the process of charting a course for recovering the lives,” said Emilio Ramirez, Director of the Office of Homeless Solutions.

The Housing First Plan specifically supports the core principles of permanent supportive housing, and embracing people experiencing street homelessness who have a mental health or addiction challenge, untreated mental illness or addiction that drives them to live on the street.

The City encourages comments from residents, stakeholders, and regional government partners throughout the month of January. After reading the Housing First Plan, citizens can email comments to H1plancomment@riversideca.gov (mailto:H1plancomment@riversideca.gov) . Comments also can be mailed to: City of Riverside Housing Authority, ATTN: H1 Plan Comment, 3900 Main Street, Riverside CA 92522.

2h ago · Subscribers of City of Riverside in General

REPLY · 20 ▾

Robert, Ms, Karen, and 9 others thanked you



Debi L. from Mission Grove · 2h ago

All I see is Local and State Officials and Politicians giving themselves Raises.Fact.

Thank

Friendly, Theresa, Marc, and 1 other thanked Debi



Harry W. from Eastside · 2h ago

This is awesome!! Housing First WORKS. Emailing and calling now!

Thank

Jo Dean thanked Harry



Debi L. from Mission Grove · 2h ago

I'm a Vietnam Veteran. I know many Vets who are without completely. Home, food you name it. My wife and I recently got my brother in Law into a Trailer. Suffice. Yet the State gives more to Felons , Illegal immigrants and Refugees. V.A. is a Joke on top of it. You will never shut me up. Never.

Thank

Gary, Theresa, Marc, and 1 other thanked Debi



Debi L. from Mission Grove · 2h ago

Our Governor purposely keeps jobs from the State. Your a loser as a representative and worker for OUR State.

Thank

Marc thanked Debi



Mike T. from Mission Grove · 2h ago

Any plan should include a city photo ID that is started long before any housing plan is implemented. Then when hundreds of new homeless come to our city to take advantage of our free stuff, they can be told this is only for people who were in our city months ago. And we will know them by their ID.

Thank

Michael, Christopher, Billy, and 4 others thanked Mike



Officer Phil Pitchford (/profile/5183139/) from City of Riverside (/agency/527013/) · 2h ago

Debi L., nobody is trying to shut you up. Quite the contrary, we post here to try to engage with the community.

The Office of Homeless Solutions was created with existing staff, so there is not an added cost to the City of Riverside.

As you may know, the City of Riverside successfully housed all of its homeless veterans following a challenge from then-President Obama, and endeavors to keep the number of homeless veterans in Riverside at zero. If you know a veteran who is homeless, please contact the Office of Homeless Solutions so they can begin outreach.

Finally, I do not work for the State of California, only the City of Riverside. Thank you for your comments.

Karen, Gail, and Maureen thanked you



Sara Z. from Downtown · 1h ago

Phil - in Appendix M, what does the green highlight mean over some of the rows? Thank you.

Thank



Linda H. from Alessandro Heights · 1h ago

I am hopeful and glad that Riverside noticed the need to help our homeless. The fires that start in the Santa Ana river bottom cost the taxpayers a lot of money not to mention the poor homeowners that are affected who live nearby the river bottom. My personal experience with the homeless was having my back window on my van shot out with a Bebe pellet when they were "hunting for food" and missed their target. This was on Wood and Van Buren a few years back. I pray for all involved to have the right answers in helping them.

Thank

Jo Dean thanked Linda



Ms A. from Canyon Crest · 1h ago

Wonderful!

Thank

Gail and Jo Dean thanked Ms



Chuck D. from La Sierra Hills · 1h ago

The biggest issue with "Housing First" is there is no requirement for sobriety or even attempting to get sober. All participants should, at a minimum, be in a program to get them sober. If not, we as taxpayers are simply supporting their habit, that is not right. Here are a couple of quotes from the website referenced above, specifically the "Housing First Principles" document:

"Tenant screening and selection practices promote accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services."

"The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction."

Edited 1h ago

Thank

Ann thanked Chuck



David S. from University · 1h ago

Why can't they somehow pay them to pick up there trash , I would be happy with that. I like Debbie's post about felons. I worked correction they get great medical and prescription drugs but not Generic brand that I get. We are letting them out early because of overcrowding ,this is why the homeless population has tripled over the last 3 yrs

Thank



Bobby D. from Grand Neighbors · 1h ago

"permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements"
Great now the drug addicts get rewarded this will only cause more damage!

Thank



Chuck D. from La Sierra Hills · 1h ago

Please, everyone, go read <http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolut...>
(http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolutions/pdf/CSH_Housing_First_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

There is also no requirement for any kind of mental health screening or requirement to take their medications, if required.

As far as I can see, the recipients of all these taxpayer dollars have to do absolutely NOTHING!

Thank



Gary D. from Victoria · 1h ago

The city needs to provide a safety net not a hammock, If they get everything they need, why work for it?...my three cents.

Thank



Karen R. from Downtown · 56m ago

Glad for the opportunity to offer my considerable opinion to the City on this subject. I've been thinking about it a lot lately.

Regarding the "Housing First" program, first attempted in Utah: It doesn't work. The early reports that it was a raging success are not accurate. When the facts of its failure came to light homeless activists, politicians and the media ignored them. It doesn't work because lack of housing for homeless people is not the problem.

Riverside has a multitude of programs for homeless people. Forty years ago our city had very few people living in the streets--mainly drunks, a few mentally-ill individuals who'd been released from secure facilities, and a few drug addicts. Then churches and charities began their free meal programs.

The way it looks to me, as the charity increased so did the homeless population. It is easy to survive in the streets here--you can do pretty much whatever you want wherever you want, be fed every day by some church or organization with no questions asked, make a living as a petty thief without fear of punishment because your class of criminal activity isn't considered serious, and thumb your nose at law-abiding people who work at an honest job for a living. After all, their greed is the cause of all your misery.

The more we offer the worse it will get.

The only way to turn this around is for homeless individuals to be screened:

- 1) If they are mentally-ill they should be sent to supervised facilities for the care they need;
- 2) If they are veterans they should be referred to a Homeless Veterans program;
- 3) If they are an emancipated foster child, they should be given a safe place to stay, guidance and temporary assistance until they can support themselves;
- 4) If they are a family with children, they should be given a safe place where they can stay together and temporary assistance until they get back on their feet;
- 5) If they are an addict and they want to go straight, they can be referred to a recovery program three times--after that they should be charged with vagrancy and told to leave town;
- 6) If they are able-bodied, sober, and still refuse to work at an honest job they should be charged with vagrancy and told to leave town;
- 7) If they have a criminal record, they should not be given any assistance from the public or the private sector but told to leave town.

Addicts and criminals who want to go straight have a multitude of options and they can start just by calling 211.

No, I do not feel sorry for homeless people. They have more rights than I do. Local, state and federal law make it impossible for my neighbors and I to protect ourselves from their "lifestyle". The police have their hands tied. And the homeless advocates say I am mean-spirited because I believe in the Laws of Cause and Effect to which everyone, even homeless people, is held accountable.

Either we pursue real-world solutions or the problem will drive decent

people out of Riverside.

God bless you all, good neighbors! Stay the course!

Thank

Chuck and Bobby thanked Karen



Billy C. from Canyon Crest · 56m ago

For a multitude of reasons (which should be both obvious and common sense) this is a horrifically bad idea.

It wasn't bad enough to not put drug addicts and criminals in jail (leaving them on the street to commit yet more crime), you now want to provide them subsidized permanent housing (subsidized by your law abiding and income producing residents) WITHOUT consideration of their drug addiction or criminal behavior to attain or keep said housing?

There are a multitude of programs and paths for people who are homeless by circumstance who want to get themselves out of that. Your proposal is centered on those who have chosen this path - and you are proposing to reward it?

Unbelievable.....

Thank

Bobby thanked Billy



Mercy M. from Victoria · 50m ago

I have read the draft, but I didn't see anything about training, mental health, where and how are the homeless going to get jobs. You can house them, but how are you going to get them to work?

Thank

Bobby thanked Mercy



Bobby D. from Grand Neighbors · 31m ago

When will people learn giving more to the people who choose this life style won't solve anything! Offer services to the mentally ill is one thing but rewarding the ones who have no legitimate problems other than their own dumb choices is enabling them. Only way people will change their lifestyle is if they want to. Cut off all aid to people that won't enroll in a rehab or some type of job training and watch how the homeless suddenly start to become productive citizens.

Thank



Allison H. from Wood Streets · 24m ago

Thank you. A start! How about a service center that is expedited one-stop shopping for resource access and urgent care?

Thank



Communications Officer Phil Pitchford (/profile/5183139/) from City of Riverside (/agency/527013/) · 1m ago

Thank you for your comments, everyone. I am not an expert on Housing First, and I am hoping to touch base with a colleague today to more specifically answer some of the concerns expressed here.

I do know from working on the public information side of the equation that Housing First is designed to provide housing with what are typically referred to as "wrap-around service," which include drug/alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, employment assistance, etc.

It is fair to say there is not a unanimous agreement about whether Housing First is the best way to proceed, in part because of some of the questions and concerns expressed here. But it is believed to be, overall, the most effective approach, especially compared to the alternative.

In short, it is not realistic to think that somebody who is suffering from one or more of the issues mentioned -- substance abuse, mental illness, unemployment -- is going to overcome those issues while still on the streets. In that scenario, very few people would ever get housing and the overall number of homeless people would never decline.

It's also worth noting that Housing First is designed for people who want to do the work -- on their sobriety, at a job, etc -- that it takes to change your own life path. It is not designed for people who just want a place to crash while continuing self-destructive habits that contributed to them being homeless in the first place.

There's obviously a lot to unpack here. I will post answers to additional questions as time allows. Please continue to engage with us and make your feelings known. This final paragraph of the press release tells you how:

The City encourages comments from residents, stakeholders, and regional government partners throughout the month of January. After reading the Housing First Plan, citizens can email comments to H1plancomment@riversideca.gov (<mailto:H1plancomment@riversideca.gov>) . Comments also can be mailed to: City of Riverside Housing Authority, ATTN: H1 Plan Comment, 3900 Main Street, Riverside CA 92522.

Write a reply...



McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 1, 2018 4:14 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Housing First Plan

Comments from the Housing Authority.

For the list you are now starting.

Thank you,

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: Walsh, Michael [MFWalsh@rivco.org]
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Cc: Adams, Stephanie
Subject: RE: [External] Housing First Plan

Emilio,

I finished reading through the plan, and below are some comments, questions, ideas, etc.

1. There is a move by the State to promote more integrated housing developments. Where in the past the State was looking to fund 100% special needs developments there is more of a need to create integrated communities. Now in order to compete in the Non-Profit Homeless Set-aside you only have to be 50% homeless to qualify. Additionally, just to qualify as special needs only 45% of the units need to meet that threshold for TCAC. I mention this only to suggest the plan incentivize the development of mixed housing developments. From an underwriting standpoint they are a lot cleaner for the tax credit investor, and they are not as expensive to operate.
2. The developer list isn't great because it doesn't take into account a number of the developers already in the market place. I didn't see Mercy, A Community of Friends, Chelsea, Wakeland, Bridge, CVHC, Palm, National CORE, etc. on the list of potential developers that do special needs housing. Some of the developers may have done 4% deals and didn't worry about going forward with the special needs labels, but I know all of these groups have done deals in the last 5 years for special needs populations.
3. If the City could save on the \$1.4 million it spends annually on police and fire calls the City could look at taking those savings for the development of permanent supportive housing. Some communities have issued Social Impact Bonds to fund endeavors to reduce recidivism rates, but the City could look at the potential of issuing Social Impact Bonds for the Housing First Initiative. The MacArthur Foundation and other large grantors have looked at purchasing the bonds.
4. Don't you have more than 19 beds of Permanent Supportive Housing in the City? Cedar Glenn and Vintage at Snowberry have 30 units of MHSA units at them, and Geel Place has 45 units of housing for those with special needs. I should know this answer but how are the 1,538 permanent supportive housing vouchers calculated? I am going to ask our team as well, but if you know offhand it is appreciated.
5. I am not sure if you heard about this but apparently the County is involved with a Whole Person Care Program where they are part of a Pilot Program that takes a portion of the Medi-Cal proceeds for housing first related activities. They are receiving \$7 million annually through 2021 I believe to operate the program. I just read about this program today, and the Housing Authority isn't really involved in the plan. The plan is mostly funding what I see as existing operations, but if tweaked the funds could be modified for what I see as more effective Housing First Activities. Potentially the

integration of health clinics into developments with permanent affordable housing. The County is working with Desert AIDS Project on just this in Palm Springs. DAP is looking to expand the affordable housing options on their campus to produce better long term health outcomes. This idea is mentioned on page 13 of the plan, but it does not discuss the County's existing plan.

6. What does it mean by Permanent Supportive Housing Programs? I know what it means in concept, but I couldn't figure out where that was defined in the document. It may be in there, but I thought the language could be clearer.

7. There is a current NOFA out for Infill Housing Grant funds. Not sure how much money is left in that pot, but may want to add it to the funding options.

8. Are you ok with the way the funds will come down from the State as part of the Building Homes and Jobs Act? One of the recommendations should be to ensure that the City of Riverside and the County of Riverside as a whole gets its fair share of the funds. We are hearing from some of the supervisors a concern that these funds will be allocated like the No Place Like Home Funds. Under that program LA gets almost everything and we are fighting over the scraps.

9. Another policy recommendation is for all affordable housing to be over the counter applications as long as they meet the sites that are designated as part of the plan. This would speed up the process, and would avoid some NIMBY issues on developments. The SB 2 could be used to fund the Environmental to make that a reality. The City of Santa Monica has a similar plan.

10. You mention parking reduction as a cost issue (and it is), but another driver of costs are the size of the units. I am not sure what the minimum unit sizes are in the City of Riverside. If they aren't already, a recommendation should be to lower them to the sizes specified by TCAC. Again I don't know enough about the City of Riverside's requirements, but many jurisdictions in Riverside County require large patios, balconies, etc. Another recommendation should be to meet with the Planning Department to determine if there are items in the zoning code that can be tweaked to lower overall costs of the development.

11. I don't necessarily agree with the Housing Typologies that are described. I am not sure what they are trying to get out with what they wrote, but the descriptions are not accurate and misleading in most cases. Riverside is a big City and multi-story in the downtown should look different from multi-story by HACR. In downtown the City should be encouraging higher density development that goes 5 plus stories, and by HACR three stories is probably more appropriate with how low dense the area is. I would have this section dovetail with what is in your existing zoning code. This would be the simplest way of describing what you are looking for on the various sites.

Emilio, if you want to meet to discuss the plan please let me know. I think overall the plan is good, and we at the County look forward to working with you to bring the plan to fruition.

If you have any questions or comments do not hesitate to let me know.

Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Ramirez, Emilio [mailto:ERamirez@riversideca.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 1:26 PM

To: Walsh, Michael <MFWalsh@rivco.org>

Cc: Adams, Stephanie <SJAdams@RIVCO.ORG>

Subject: RE: [External] Housing First Plan

Cool.

Thank you,

Office of Homeless Solutions

-----Original Message-----

From: Walsh, Michael [mailto:MFWalsh@rivco.org]

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 1:25 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Cc: Adams, Stephanie
Subject: Re: [External] Housing First Plan

Started. Will have some comments to you by the end of the week.

Mike

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 26, 2017, at 1:03 PM, Ramirez, Emilio <ERamirez@riversideca.gov> wrote:

>

> Did you review?

>

> Thank you,

>

> Office of Homeless Solutions

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Adams, Stephanie [mailto:SJAdams@RIVCO.ORG]

> Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 6:46 PM

> To: Ramirez, Emilio

> Cc: Walsh, Michael

> Subject: Re: [External] Housing First Plan

>

> Are you still posting for public comment on January 2nd?

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Dec 20, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Ramirez, Emilio <ERamirez@riversideca.gov> wrote:

>>

>> yes. darn. i forgot. i will send tomorrow. thank you for the reminder.

>>

>> Thank you,

>>

>> Office of Homeless Solutions

>>

>>

>> _____
>> From: Adams, Stephanie [SJAdams@RIVCO.ORG]

>> Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 6:43 PM

>> To: Ramirez, Emilio

>> Cc: Walsh, Michael

>> Subject: [External] Housing First Plan

>>

>> Emilio, just a reminder to please send us over the housing first plan and let us know which pages specifically reference any county (housing authority) partnerships.

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>> Confidentiality Disclaimer

>>

PSHplancomment

From: gardengirl515 <gardengirl515@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 8:03 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing first comments

I do not want housing first. It allows the most addicted and mentally ill to live close to us in our neighborhoods. Not only that but they can stay and continue to abuse drugs and alcohol and refuse any kind of mental health counseling. I'd rather see people with children or people who have lost a job and trying to get back on their feet have a place to stay rather than the aforementioned abusing drugs and alcohol and not having to have mental health counseling and will be able to stay without any restrictions.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Express 3, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

PSHplancomment

From: Anna Marlene Lutschkin <AnnaMarlene.Lutschkin@calbaptist.edu>
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2018 12:32 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] feedback for housing first plan

i support the housing first plan!

Sent from my iPhone

From: Richard Wing [mailto:dickwing@ucr.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 12:29 PM
To: Gardner, Mike <MGardner@riversideca.gov>
Cc: Anderson, Lynn <LAnderson@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] Homeless plan

To Riverside City Council:

We would like to express support for the City's Housing First Plan. We have worked for over thirty years with a program that provides meals, children's programs, and most recently medical and dental services for Riverside's underserved population, including the homeless. We have seen many attempts by city and county to address homeless issues. None of these have been adequate to address the problems. Housing First has apparently been relatively successful in other communities and given the growing problem in most communities countrywide Riverside's plan seems worth pursuing. A major concern, of course, as always is the funding. We especially appreciate the stipulation that services will be provided in all Wards and not concentrated in any one Ward.

We would especially encourage the proposal to house former foster children attending RCC. This population has been deprived of most of the advantages the rest of us have enjoyed. Over the year we have found the majority of the younger homeless attending our programs to be former foster kids. Housing First would for this population be a truly preventative effort. Our feeling is that this program would be so valuable that if any services we could contribute would be deemed helpful we would be happy to volunteer.

Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Wing

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 4:17 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Re: Update on the Indiana-Vallejo proposed "Housing First" site...

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: MacArthur, Chris
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2018 6:16 AM
To: Nguyen, Alexander; Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: Fwd: [External] Re: Update on the Indiana-Vallejo proposed "Housing First" site...

Please see below.

Thanks,

Chris MacArthur
Councilmember, Ward 5
City of Riverside

Begin forwarded message:

From: VALPO <patty@valpomedios.com>
Date: January 19, 2018 at 10:58:46 PM PST
To: "MacArthur, Chris" <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Update on the Indiana-Vallejo proposed "Housing First" site...

Helle Councilman MacArthur,

Thank you for the update.
Please note Lauren does not live in our Riverwalk Vista community anymore.
I have forwarded you update to the rest of the board.

We all agree that the proposed site across the street is not a good idea and we oppose it.

Have a nice weekend

Patty
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 19, 2018, at 10:22 AM, MacArthur, Chris <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov> wrote:

Carlos/Patty/Lauren:

Please pass along to your Board:

City Staff was asked to identify 5-6 "potential" sites for the Housing First model. The Housing First model does work, but it has to be in the right neighborhood. I am in agreement with you that this would be a bad site. This site should have priority for commercial use. We have had too many, continuing issues in the area and the site is close to many attractive nuisances: The railroad tracks and the freeway. I have asked staff to remove this site from the Housing First Plan.

Over the next couple of months, we will be identifying sites in all Wards to implement this model. We already have a successful model in place at Camp Anza, in Ward 6, where Mercy House runs a supportive Housing First Model. Those housed are held accountable for their actions and live in a community where they are monitored day and night. The Homeless problem is not going away, so we can effectively manage it or ignore it and it will get worse. We have to take an active role or additional vagrants will continue to live on our streets and in our neighborhoods. As a community, we have to aggressively attack this homeless problem, locally. 70% of the "Homeless" on the streets are criminals that should still be in jail. As we have discussed before, the liberal politicians in Sacramento have put in place very bad policies (Assembly Bill-AB 109) which released felons to our local community with no funding and then the voters approved the disastrous Prop 47 and Prop 57 (The full effects are not completely felt yet).

In conclusion, we as a community have to be willing to implement the Housing First Model. It has proven to work over the past 30 years, run by competent, non-profits. Again, please assure your residents, that I have asked this site to be removed from the Housing First Plan.

Best wishes,

Chris Mac Arthur
Council Member, Ward 5
City of Riverside

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 4:16 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Re: Update on the Indiana-Vallejo proposed "Housing First" site...
Attachments: imagef6f96f.JPG

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: MacArthur, Chris
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 3:13 PM
To: Nguyen, Alexander; Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: Fwd: [External] Re: Update on the Indiana-Vallejo proposed "Housing First" site...

Alex/Emilio:

More from Carlos Delgado.

Thanks,

Chris MacArthur
Councilmember, Ward 5
City of Riverside

Begin forwarded message:

From: Carlos Delgado <carlosd@danmarins.com>
Date: January 19, 2018 at 12:21:50 PM PST
To: "MacArthur, Chris" <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Update on the Indiana-Vallejo proposed "Housing First" site...

Good morning Cris,

Thank you for understanding our concern. Close to 400 families have elected to live in our Community and invested their hard earned money in their houses. Also the investors of the new upscale apartment complex would not be happy to have this type of housing in our neighborhood.

I know that the homeless problem has to be resolved, but there have to be other locations that are better suited for these projects.

Thank you again for your contribution to our Ward.

Best regards,

Carlos

On 1/19/2018 10:22 AM, MacArthur, Chris wrote:

Carlos/Patty/Lauren:

Please pass along to your Board:

City Staff was asked to identify 5-6 "potential" sites for the Housing First model. The Housing First model does work, but it has to be in the right neighborhood. I am in agreement with you that this would be a bad site. This site should have priority for commercial use. We have had too many, continuing issues in the area and the site is close to many attractive nuisances: The railroad tracks and the freeway. I have asked staff to remove this site from the Housing First Plan.

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In conclusion, we as a community have to be willing to implement the Housing First Model. It has proven to work over the past 30 years, run by competent, non-profits. Again, please assure your residents, that I have asked this site to be removed from the Housing First Plan.

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 4:25 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Housing for Homeless

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: MacArthur, Chris
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 6:04 PM
To: Nguyen, Alexander; Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: Fwd: [External] Housing for Homeless

FYI. This is what I talked to you about yesterday. Please see below.

Thanks,

Chris Mac Arthur
Council Member, Ward 5
City of Riverside

Begin forwarded message:

From: "David E, Swift" <deswift52@yahoo.com>
Date: January 18, 2018 at 5:16:34 PM PST
To: Chris Mac Arthur <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>
Cc: "'David E. Swift'" <deswift52@yahoo.com>
Subject: [External] Housing for Homeless

Dear Councilman Chris Mac Arthur,

This afternoon one of my friends and an HOA Board Member for Riverwalk Vista alerted me that the City of Riverside is considering allowing a multi-story apartment complex to house the homeless to be built on the vacant lot between the new Metro Gateway Apartments and the "Bowlero" Bowling Alley. If allowed, this multi-story apartment complex to house the homeless would be directly across from where my wife and I live. As you may recall, my wife and I have lived in our home here on Vallejo St. since 1978. It is incongruent to have luxury, high-end apartments next door to a homeless development. It is incongruent to have the luxury homes of Riverwalk Vista across the street from a homeless development. As you are well aware of, this type of population introduces rampant crime and drugs into the area.

I am adamantly opposed to this development due to the adverse impact it will have on our community and our home values. The crime in our area has skyrocketed and we have been victims of the homeless criminals in the area on a number of occasions. It is a constant, ongoing problem. Vallejo St. has become a thoroughfare for the homeless as they use it to conduct drug deals; especially at the end of our street at the cul-de-sac. Vallejo St. is also used as an escape route for those that steal from our homes, vehicles and trash cans. The escape route is south on Vallejo St to the Riverwalk Vista green space with a walkway that leads to Arizona St. Just a few weeks ago RPD Officers attempted to arrest several suspects for a home burglary from Riverwalk Vista, but the male suspect assaulted the Officer and escaped via this route. I was told by an Officer that the suspect has not been found, but they know who he is.

I am very thankful for the support you have been to our community and especially for those times where you have been directly involved in various matters I have brought to your attention. The RPD has also been very responsive.

I respectfully request, and **earnestly urge you not approve this project.**

Sincerely,

David E. Swift
3363 Vallejo St.
Riverside, CA 92503
951-235-6980 cell

PSHplancomment

From: Ryan / Kelly <rkskove@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 5:28 PM
To: PSHplancomment; Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: [External] Housing First Comment

To whom it may concern,

I would like to issue my support for the Housing First proposal for the city of Riverside. As I researched Housing First, I've come to see that it has had great success in places like Salt Lake City, Denver, Massachusetts and Seattle, to name a few. All those places have seen reduced city spending on emergency services since participating in Housing First, having found that providing housing is less expensive. Housing First comes at the issue, not purely as an individualistic problem, but as a problem with lack of affordable housing in our society and so does Riverside's Housing First Proposal. As a follower Jesus Christ, I believe it is our duty to take care of our neighbor and Housing First seems to be the best approach found to truly help our neighbor.

I attend a small local church in Ward 3 called Madison Street Church and I live in Ward 5. I will be happy to see this affordable housing be built and I am interested in learning how the community can help make this idea prosper.

With regards,

Ryan Skove

From: DWIGHT TATE [mailto:dud2@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 1:48 PM

To: Ramirez, Emilio <ERamirez@riversideca.gov>; Nguyen, Alexander <ANguyen@riversideca.gov>

Cc: Soubirous, Mike <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>; Gardner, Mike <MGardner@riversideca.gov>; Melendrez, Andy <AMelendrez@riversideca.gov>; Conder, Chuck <CConder@riversideca.gov>; MacArthur, Chris <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>; Perry, Jim <JPerry@riversideca.gov>; Adams, Steven <SAdams@riversideca.gov>; Bailey, Rusty <RBailey@riversideca.gov>; Russo, John A. <jrusso@riversideca.gov>

Subject: [External] Housing First

Emilio and Alex--I think you have done a fantastic job with your presentations on Housing First for Riverside. As you know, I am fully supportive of this philosophy. Anyone who reads the 69 pages of the Final Draft will be assured that Housing First is a responsible answer to meeting our local challenges for homelessness. I salute the City Council for deciding that "Doing Nothing" is no longer an option.

I wanted to make a few brief comments about the meeting I attended. I should preface this with my own history of opinions about homelessness. It was not that long ago that I believed we should only help people that wanted help, and that could manage to succeed along several steps leading to housing. Then I read the book, "Housing First" and grappled with the concept of whether or not housing, decent livable housing, was in fact high up on the list of human rights. More practically, if we decide to help only those that want help, what exactly are we offering homeless people? The short answer is, for the majority, nothing. In the vernacular, what's in it for them? That is, if we are offering nothing that would encourage changing behavior, changing circumstances, why would anyone be motivated to change? Housing First tackles these issues directly.

Sorry for the digression. I think the major issue brought up in the meeting I attended, was the appearance of giving people something for nothing. This can be addressed by pointing out the myriad support services and interventions that are in place and will be utilized. Among other things, helping people get their finances in order will defray some programmatic expenses. Without individualized support and access to services, the program cannot succeed. Emphasizing that all the appropriate services will be involved as a condition of participation, should help. Also, I think emphasizing the incredible success rate of 70, 80, 90 percent overall, and our local Riverside success rate, should speak to some questions about efficacy.

Some people in the audience see all homeless people as criminals. I am not sure what arguments would counter this, other than to say statistically it is not true. Putting all homeless people in jail is not an answer. The cost would be staggering. Perhaps the police are already supportive of the Housing First concept if they have had enough experience with it to see that it works, and provides resources for them out in the community when they are called. It is always difficult to "prove a negative" in that the costs avoided by fewer incarcerations and hospitalizations are not immediately demonstrable.

Surprisingly, there was not much discussion of "NIMBY" at the meeting. I think the idea that homeless people are not limited to one Ward or one area, and that facilities will be located on all wards is a very rational approach. The fact that there are already facilities in place, and they are succeeding, is very persuasive.

I wish you nothing but success in all your presentations. I am excited that my home town is on its way to significantly helping many of our neighbors change their circumstances and change their lives!--Dwight (Tate, 92506)

From: Sharon Mateja [<mailto:smateja@earthlink.net>]

Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 5:40 PM

To: 'Mike Gardner' <mike_gardner@att.net>

Cc: Melendrez, Andy <ASMelendrez@riversideca.gov>; Soubirous, Mike <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>; Conder, Chuck <CConder@riversideca.gov>; MacArthur, Chris <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>; Perry, Jim <JPerry@riversideca.gov>; Adams, Steven <SAdams@riversideca.gov>; Nicol, Colleen <CNicol@riversideca.gov>

Subject: [External] I oppose the Housing First plan as it is written

Thank you Mike.

You always answer email to you and you are usually the first to answer a group email; I can always count on you.

I do not think this Housing First be considered as written. There is NO CONTROL over this program; no requirements for sobriety, to be drug free, to work, to enroll in sobriety programs, drug rehab, job training or to accept employment. I recognize that these programs will be available to assist those accepted, but there is **NO REQUIREMENT** that any of the homeless that we house will accept them.

A key component of the model is the provision of supportive services. In PSH all services need to be engagement-based and voluntary in nature. Services should be tailored to each person's unique needs and thus considered "client-centered." PSH services need to use the following best practices:

Housing First is written for "homeless" as the ONLY qualifier which invites any and every homeless person from ANYWHERE to get on the bus and come to Riverside. Why are we making ourselves "easy pick n's"?

Do you remember the WPA (OK, before our time but we read about it, our parents lived through it and we learned about it in school). Please refresh yourself about the WPA by reading the following links.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/fdr-creates-the-wpa>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works_Progress_Administration

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/wwii/jb_wwii_work_1.html

What about the CCC?

<https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Depression%20Era%20Programs%20-%20Region%206.pdf>

We need a partnership....work for substance. People of the post war depression wanted to work but there was no work; Roosevelt created the WPA and the CCC to HELP PEOPLE SURVIVE AND GET ONTO THEIR FEET and to make America better. It wasn't a freebee. It built our railroad system, roads, implemented conservation projects, etc.; people could live, feed their children, have a place to live and HAVE PRIDE while contributing to those entities that America needed at that time! Riverside has needs that aren't being met with road improvement, park maintenance, tree trimming, and many, many other things that we are told the budget cannot support....let's start our own WPA and CCC here in Riverside...homeless can work, have pride and our city can flourish.

These are my comments on the HOUSING FIRST. **I oppose Housing First as it is written.**
It appears that some of the council feel the same; you do need to “squash” this and rethink the advantages, disadvantages, the benefits and the pit falls.

Dr. Sharon B. Mateja
Resident/Homeowner/Stakeholder

From: Mike Gardner [mailto:mike_gardner@att.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 3:25 PM
To: Sharon Mateja
Subject: RE: FW: City of Riverside Daily Digest Bulletin

Sharon,

No single Councilmember has the authority to squash or to even modify something the Council as a whole has done. The Council voted to pursue Housing First as a strategy for addressing Homelessness in our city.

The report being circulated is a step in that direction. Nothing is final at this point and no sites have been selected. That is what the workshops and comment period is for. I think it is possible the framework put forward in the report will be modified before anything is put in place. It could even be scrapped if a majority of Councilmembers vote against it.

At this point I believe it is very much alive and active discussion should continue. This is my opinion. Other Councilmembers may have different opinions just as different constituents do.

Best regards,

Mike

cc: Mayor
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
ACMs
Community and Economic Development

-----Original Message-----

From: Sharon Mateja [mailto:smateja@earthlink.net]

Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 2:45 PM

To: Adams, Steven <SAdams@riversideca.gov>; Melendrez, Andy <ASMelendrez@riversideca.gov>; 'Mike Gardner' <mike_gardner@att.net>; Soubirous, Mike <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>; MacArthur, Chris <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>; Perry, Jim <JPerry@riversideca.gov>; Conder, Chuck <CConder@riversideca.gov>

Cc: Nicol, Colleen <CNicol@riversideca.gov>; Ramirez, Emilio <ERamirez@riversideca.gov>

Subject: [External] RE: FW: City of Riverside Daily Digest Bulletin

Importance: High

Dear Councilmembers,

I received the following email from a resident who attended the Ward 7 update meeting last week. He tells me that the HOUSING FIRST proposal has been "squashed" and that there is no longer a comment deadline. I am writing to confirm this before I mention it to anyone.

This was sent to me in response to a reminder I sent to the community to attend the HOUSING FIRST presentation February 3rd. If this has been removed from the "drawing board", I would like to let residents know; also, have the HOUSING FIRST meetings been postponed or cancelled.

I am sending this to all councilmembers in order to be assured there is a consensus.

Respectfully,

Sharon Mateja
Chairperson RRR

Hi, Sharon,

At the meeting held last week, Councilman Adams said that he had squashed both the proposal, and the comment deadline date. You might want to contact him or Sandy to make sure I understood it correctly. Councilman Adams was in total agreement with the residents about the "no strings attached" proposal for homeless being totally unacceptable. He also drew a distinct line between people who are homeless due to unfortunate circumstances, and those who are homeless because of choice. He also said that providing homes to convicted felons was a non-starter.

Best regards,
Tim

On Sat, 1/27/18, Sharon Mateja <smateja@earthlink.net> wrote:

Subject: FW: City of Riverside Daily Digest Bulletin

To: "'Dr. Sharon B Mateja'" <smateja@earthlink.net>

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2018, 12:02 AM

Saturday, February
3rd a Housing First draft

will be presented at La Sierra Senior Center. You have until February 12th to give YOUR comments to the city on this proposed plan. PLEASE ATTEND and become familiar with a proposed solution from the city. What is HOUSING FIRST? Read about it

at:

<https://www.riversideca.gov/homelessolutions/pdf/2017/Housing%20First%20Final%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>
<https://www.riversideca.gov/homelessolutions/pdf/2018/City%20of%20Riverside%20Housing%20First%20Strategy%20-%20DRAFT%20FOR%20PUBLIC%20REVIEW%2001022018.cleaned.pdf> Below is an excerpt from page 13 of the 2nd link above: It is important to note that there are NO REQUIREMENTS for housing except to be homeless. There is not a residency requirement (people can come from Anaheim, S.B., Corona, Moreno Valley, or???) Nor does one need to be a USA resident or citizen). There is no requirement for sobriety or to be drug free; there is no requirement to go into a rehab program, there is no requirement for job training, there is no requirement to work. Programs are offered, but they do not need to be accepted; see the highlighted text below.

If you have concerns, recommendations or comments, they must be received by the city no later than February 12th. If you write to your councilman, please include the city clerk in a "cc" so that your opinion is part of public record.

Councilman Steve
Adams Ward 7 sadams@riversideca.gov Councilman Jim Perry Ward 6 jperry@riversideca.gov City Clerk Colleen Nicol
cnicol@riversideca.gov

Permanent
Supportive Housing Model: Background For decades, PSH programs have been providing housing with wrap-around supportive services to

Comments Due to
H1plancomment@riversideca.gov by Monday, February 12,
2018 | Page

homeless and chronically homeless households with disabilities. Although programs have been providing services to tenants since the mid-to-late 1980s, most credit Pathways to Housing and its founder Dr. Sam Tsemberis for having originated the PSH model, using the Housing First approach, in New York City in the early 1990s. Pathways to Housing revolutionized the model and brought it into the mainstream as an effective intervention to address homelessness specifically for those who are most hard to reach and suffer from mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders.

Pathways to Housing is guided by the vision that housing is a basic human right and its operating model states: "We start by housing people directly from the streets, without precondition. Then we address their underlying issues around mental health, addiction, medical care, income, and education to help integrate and welcome them back into our community."²⁴ Although PSH is targeted to the homeless individuals and families with the most complex needs, PSH's model is fairly simple in concept:

Permanent:
Tenants may live in their homes as long as they meet the basic obligations of tenancy, such as paying rent;
Supportive:

Tenants have access to person-centered and flexible support services that they need and want to retain housing; and
Housing: Tenants have a private and secure place to make their home, just like other members of the community, with the same rights and responsibilities.²⁵

A key component of the model is the provision of supportive services. In PSH all services need to be engagement-based and voluntary in nature. Services should be tailored to each person's unique needs and thus considered "client-centered." PSH services need to use the following best practices:

Upcoming Events, Job Postings and more!
01/26/2018

Announcements

Ward 7 Council Member Steve Adams •

January 26, 2018 • For more

information please visit: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofriverside> Ward 7 Council Member Steve Adams
City of Riverside
3900 Main Street
Riverside CA, 92522

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 4:22 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Homeless Housing

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: MacArthur, Chris
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 10:08 AM
To: Nguyen, Alexander; Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: Fwd: [External] Homeless Housing

Alex/Emilio:

Let's remove the Indiana site at Vallejo from Housing First. I can support you on other sites, other than St. Michael's. This one is not going to work, for the concerns I mentioned to you this week, location and ongoing issues we are having on the Railroad Tracks, Homeless travel up Vallejo and behind Riverwalk Vista and the area behind Vallejo and Tyler where we have had several encampments. This area has been under siege for years and the community is unglued about this proposal on this site. I have already fielded 10 calls over the past 2 days. Please see another one below.

Thanks,

Chris MacArthur
Councilmember, Ward 5
City of Riverside

Begin forwarded message:

From: Matthew Ritzi <ritziguy@yahoo.com>
Date: January 19, 2018 at 9:44:52 AM PST
To: Chris MacArthur <cmacarthur@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] Homeless Housing

Hello Councilmember MacArthur.

I wanted to inquire today about a rumor that has been going around in regards to the possibility of a homeless housing project being constructed near the intersection of Indiana and Vallejo Streets. First I wanted to see if this is a proposed site and second how I can find more details.

Without details, I would like to preliminarily express my concern with such a project and housing construct, being placed across the street from my neighborhood. I reside at 10820 Rio Grande Lane inside the Riverwalk Vista community. I am also on the HOA board of Riverwalk Vista and several of our board members are concerned as well. Looking at the housing first initiative that has been adopted by the city, I disagree with many aspects of it and would be completely against a housing site to be so close to my neighborhood.

If you could provide me with more details I would greatly appreciate it and I would also urge the council to keep those communities near these proposed sites in the loop of what is being discussed.

Thank you once again for your time and commitment to our ward. We really appreciate all you do.

Best,

Matthew Ritzi
Board Member
Riverwalk Vista Community
951-751-6399

From: Alex Blacutt [<mailto:alex.blacutt@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 2:15 PM
To: Gardner, Mike <MGardner@riversideca.gov>
Cc: Anderson, Lynn <LANDerson@riversideca.gov>; cnichol@riversideca.gov
Subject: [External] Housing First

Hi Councilman Gardner,

I'm emailing to support, as loudly as I can, the Housing First initiative being considered. I think that the approach outlined in the report, aside from having proven success, makes moral sense in providing for the homeless in our community. I have called your office to express my support as well. I and some other folks are planning to make flyers to rally support; if there's any information you think would be important to include on there I'd be happy to take that back to them. If there's anything else I can do to help this pass, I would be happy to do so. Thank you for your time.

-Alex Blacutt

City of Riverside Requests Public Comment on Housing First Strategy

Communications Officer Phil Pitchford from City of Riverside · 3 Jan

The City of Riverside's Office of Homeless Solutions today (1/2) published its draft Housing First strategy, which is designed to reduce the number of people who are homeless, and is seeking the public's comment on the plan through Jan. 25.

The Housing First strategy is a community-based program designed to address homelessness across Riverside, relying on partnerships to develop much-needed projects and programs. The approach is seen as a way to allocate scarce resources to amplify City efforts to combat homelessness.

Responding to a growing incidence of homelessness in the City, and using data from state and local sources, maps and other city records, the Office of Homeless Solutions hopes to utilize the Housing First strategy as a road map to create, implement and operate additional housing in the City of Riverside.

Copies of the Housing First Plan are available on the City's website

– <http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolut...> -- and at City libraries, and at the offices of the City Housing Authority, on the 5th Floor of City Hall, 3900 Main Street, and at the Office of the City Clerk, on the 7th floor of City Hall.

"Today, we are proposing a proactive and targeted homeless plan that will benefit residents, businesses, and neighbors who need assistance to lead healthy and productive lives," Mayor Rusty Bailey said. "This Housing First Plan will enable us to assist a greater number of our homeless neighbors."

The Housing First plan is the latest in a series of efforts to combat homelessness. A Riverside City Council workshop with a variety of stakeholders to discuss the issue of homelessness within the City suggested Housing First could be a key strategy to implement.

At a follow-up meeting with the City Council regarding homeless policy, the Council directed staff to pursue Housing First. The Housing First Plan, modified with public comment collected this month, is expected to be considered by the City Council on Feb. 27.

"The City of Riverside is working on many fronts to combat homelessness," Mayor Pro Tem Jim Perry said. "I encourage all stakeholders in Riverside to review the Housing First strategy and provide their feedback so the City can achieve the best result."

The Office of Homeless Solutions aims to prevent and reduce homelessness across Riverside through the mobilization of partnerships at the federal, County, regional, and community levels. These partnerships contribute to sustainable and comprehensive development of services and facilities to help those who are chronically or episodically homeless, or at risk of homelessness, or

are part of the hidden homeless population, move towards well-being and self-sufficiency.

“The Housing First Plan is ultimately about assisting the most vulnerable Riverside residents with meeting their needs for basic survival and providing them with general support as they begin the process of charting a course for recovering their lives,” said Emilio Ramirez, Director of the Office of Homeless Solutions.

The Housing First Plan specifically supports the core principles of permanent supportive housing, and embracing people experiencing street homelessness who have a mental health or addiction challenge, untreated mental illness or addiction that drives them to live on the street.

The City encourages comments from residents, stakeholders, and regional government partners throughout the month of January. After reading the Housing First Plan, citizens can email comments to H1plancomment@riversideca.gov . Comments also can be mailed to: City of Riverside Housing Authority, ATTN: H1 Plan Comment, 3900 Main Street, Riverside CA 92522.

NEW LINK, please use this one:

<https://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolu...>

Elvira, Sheryl, Robert, and [16 others](#) thanked [Phil](#)



[Debi L.](#) from [Mission Grove](#) · 3 Jan

All I see is Local and State Officials and Politicians giving themselves Raises.Fact.

[Thank](#)

Gail, Maisha, Friendly, and [5 others](#) thanked [Debi](#)



[Harry W.](#) from [Eastside](#) · 3 Jan

This is awesome!! Housing First WORKS. Emailing and calling now!

[Thank](#)

Robin-Jo, Jo Dean, Marie, and [1 other](#) thanked [Harry](#)



[Debi L.](#) from [Mission Grove](#) · 3 Jan

I'm a Vietnam Veteran. I know many Vets who are without completely. Home, food you name it. My wife and I recently got my brother in Law into a Trailer. Suffice. Yet the State gives more to Felons , Illegal immigrants and Refugees. V.A. is a Joke on top of it. You will never shut me up. Never.

Thank

Alyssa, Gail, Sarrah, and 17 others thanked Debi



Debi L. from Mission Grove · 3 Jan

Our Governor purposely keeps jobs from the State. Your a loser as a representative and worker for OUR State.

Thank

Michelle, Gail, Gary, and 3 others thanked Debi



Mike T. from Mission Grove · 3 Jan

Any plan should include a city photo ID that is started long before any housing plan is implemented. Then when hundreds of new homeless come to our city to take advantage of our free stuff, they can be told this is only for people who were in our city months ago. And we will know them by their ID.

Thank

Priscilla, Michael, Christopher, and 26 others thanked Mike



Communications Officer Phil Pitchford from City of Riverside · 3 Jan

Debi L., nobody is trying to shut you up. Quite the contrary, we post here to try to engage with the community.

The Office of Homeless Solutions was created with existing staff, so there is not an added cost to the City of Riverside.

As you may know, the City of Riverside successfully housed all of its homeless veterans following a challenge from then-President Obama, and endeavors to keep the number of homeless veterans in Riverside at zero. If you know a veteran who is homeless, please contact the Office of Homeless Solutions so they can begin outreach.

Finally, I do not work for the State of California, only the City of Riverside. Thank you for your comments.

Thank

Elvira, Sheryl, Leslie, and 17 others thanked Phil



Sara Z. from Downtown · 3 Jan

Phil - in Appendix M, what does the green highlight mean over some of the rows? Thank you.



Linda H. from Alessandro Heights · 3 Jan

I am hopeful and glad that Riverside noticed the need to help our homeless. The fires that start in the Santa Ana river bottom cost the taxpayers a lot of money not to mention the poor homeowners that are affected who live nearby the river bottom. My personal experience with the homeless was having my back window on my van shot out with a Bebe pellet when they were "hunting for food" and missed their target. This was on Wood and Van Buren a few years back. I pray for all involved to have the right answers in helping them.

Thank

Vern, Kathleen, Michele, and 6 others thanked Linda



Ms A. from Canyon Crest · 3 Jan

Wonderful!

Thank

Robin-Jo, Gail, and Jo Dean thanked Ms



Chuck D. from La Sierra Hills · 3 Jan

The biggest issue with "Housing First" is there is no requirement for sobriety or even attempting to get sober. All participants should, at a minimum, be in a program to get them sober. If not, we as taxpayers are simply supporting their habit, that is not right. Here are a couple of quotes from the website referenced above, specifically the "Housing First Principles" document:

"Tenant screening and selection practices promote accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services."

"The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction."

Edited on 3 Jan

Thank

Lily, Priscilla, Alyssa, and 15 others thanked Chuck



David S. from University · 3 Jan

Why can't they somehow pay them to pick up there trash , I would be happy with that. I like Debbie's post about felons. I worked correction they get great medical and prescription drugs but not Generic brand that

I get. We are letting them out early because of overcrowding ,this is why the homeless population has tripled over the last 3 yrs

Thank

Lily, Alyssa, Gail, and 5 others thanked David



Bobby D. from Grand Neighbors · 3 Jan

“permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements”

Great now the drug addicts get rewarded this will only cause more damage!

Thank

Alyssa, Gail, Sarrah, and 7 others thanked Bobby



Chuck D. from La Sierra Hills · 3 Jan

Please, everyone, go read <http://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolut...>

There is also no requirement for any kind of mental health screening or requirement to take their medications, if required.

As far as I can see, the recipients of all these taxpayer dollars have to do absolutely NOTHING!

Thank

Alyssa, Gail, Kathie, and 6 others thanked Chuck



Gary D. from Victoria · 3 Jan

The city needs to provide a safety net not a hammock, If they get everything they need, why work for it?...my three cents.

Thank

Alyssa, Gail, Kathie, and 12 others thanked Gary



Karen R. from Downtown · 3 Jan

Glad for the opportunity to offer my considerable opinion to the City on this subject. I've been thinking about it a lot lately.

Regarding the "Housing First" program, first attempted in Utah: It doesn't work. The early reports that it was a raging success are not accurate. When the facts of its failure came to light homeless activists, politicians and the media ignored them. It doesn't work because lack of housing for homeless people is

not the problem.

Riverside has a multitude of programs for homeless people. Forty years ago our city had very few people living in the streets—mainly drunks, a few mentally-ill individuals who'd been released from secure facilities, and a few drug addicts. Then churches and charities began their free meal programs.

The way it looks to me, as the charity increased so did the homeless population. It is easy to survive in the streets here—you can do pretty much whatever you want wherever you want, be fed every day by some church or organization with no questions asked, make a living as a petty thief without fear of punishment because your class of criminal activity isn't considered serious, and thumb your nose at law-abiding people who work at an honest job for a living. After all, their greed is the cause of all your misery.

The more we offer the worse it will get.

The only way to turn this around is for homeless individuals to be screened:

- 1) If they are mentally-ill they should be sent to supervised facilities for the care they need;
- 2) If they are veterans they should be referred to a Homeless Veterans program;
- 3) If they are an emancipated foster child, they should be given a safe place to stay, guidance and temporary assistance until they can support themselves;
- 4) If they are a family with children, they should be given a safe place where they can stay together and temporary assistance until they get back on their feet;
- 5) If they are an addict and they want to go straight, they can be referred to a recovery program three times—after that they should be charged with vagrancy and told to leave town;
- 6) If they are able-bodied, sober, and still refuse to work at an honest job they should be charged with vagrancy and told to leave town;
- 7) If they have a criminal record, they should not be given any assistance from the public or the private sector but told to leave town.

Addicts and criminals who want to go straight have a multitude of options and they can start just by calling 211.

No, I do not feel sorry for homeless people. They have more rights than I do. Local, state and federal law make it impossible for my neighbors and I to protect ourselves from their "lifestyle". The police have their hands tied. And the homeless advocates say I am mean-spirited because I believe in the Laws of Cause and Effect to which everyone, even homeless people, is held accountable.

Either we pursue real-world solutions or the problem will drive decent people out of Riverside.

God bless you all, good neighbors! Stay the course!

Thank

Marian, Dave, Alyssa, and 36 others thanked Karen



Billy C. from Canyon Crest · 3 Jan

For a multitude of reasons (which should be both obvious and common sense) this is a horrifically bad idea.

It wasn't bad enough to not put drug addicts and criminals in jail (leaving them on the street to commit yet more crime), you now want to provide them subsidized permanent housing (subsidized by your law abiding and income producing residents) WITHOUT consideration of their drug addiction or criminal behavior to attain or keep said housing?

Their are a multitude of programs and paths for people who are homeless by circumstance who want to get themselves out of that. Your proposal is centered on those who have chosen this path - and you are proposing to reward it?

Unbelievable.....

Thank

Marian, Dave, Alyssa, and 13 others thanked Billy



Mercy M. from Victoria · 3 Jan

I have read the draft, but I didn't see anything about training, mental health, where and how are the homeless going to get jobs. You can house them, but how are you going to get them to work?

Thank

Dave, Gail, Kathie, and 5 others thanked Mercy



Bobby D. from Grand Neighbors · 3 Jan

When will people learn giving more to the people who choose this life style won't solve anything! Offer services to the mentally ill is one thing but rewarding the ones who have no legitimate problems ... View

more

Thank

Pat, Lily, Marian, and 10 others thanked Bobby



Allison H. from Wood Streets · 3 Jan

Thank you. A start! How about a service center that is expedited one-stop shopping for resource access and urgent care?

Thank

Bernice and Debbi thanked Allison



Communications Officer Phil Pitchford from City of Riverside · 3 Jan

Thank you for your comments, everyone. I am not an expert on Housing First, and I am hoping to touch base with a colleague today to more specifically answer some of the concerns expressed here.

I do ... [View more](#)

Thank

Elvira, Sheryl, Robin-Jo, and [1 other](#) thanked Phil



Gina L. from La Sierra · 3 Jan

Karen R. you have summed this great issue up. It is a sad situation but law abiding, working citizens are just as much victims as many of those in the street Some truly choose that **lifestyle**. I know of some individuals who could have a decent place to live but choose not to because **they don't want to work to pay there share to stay there**. We are being forced to pay for and maintain home security systems to protect our loved ones and property. I also agree that anyone who receives **TEMPORARY** assistance must be registered and held accountable to help themselves. Too many have no pride in keeping a job and taking care of themselves. The government and free food facilities have **only** enabled many to keep seeking handouts so for them, and this has been told to me by them, "I make enough on the streets panhandling and I know where I can get a free meal and don't have to **follow anyone's rules**." I also do not see myself as mean spirited. I have raised my children to work for what they want never to expect anything for free. Continuous giving only enables many.

Thank

Gary, Marian, Dave, and [19 others](#) thanked Gina



Chuck D. from La Sierra Hills · 3 Jan

Phil,

I agree that it would be unrealistic for the homeless to address all of their issues while living on the streets but I do not think it is too much to ask that they at least make a good faith ... [View more](#)

Thank

Dave, Alyssa, Billy, and [13 others](#) thanked Chuck



Communications Officer Phil Pitchford from City of Riverside · 3 Jan

Chuck D., you correctly point out that the screening process will be very critical to the success of this effort. That process will be designed to ensure that participants are indeed committed to making a good faith effort toward their own success. You also correctly point out that no government program will change someone's life, especially if that life is experiencing self-induced trauma, if the person does not make a commitment to change. Our goal is to find the people who are committed and help them because you cannot "fix" homelessness without housing. Thank you again for being part of this dialogue.

Thank

Elvira, Sheryl, Bernice, and 4 others thanked Phil



Mike C. from La Sierra Hills · 3 Jan

Phil

Then change the language to state screening will include mental health and drug testing
Along with they must complete any programs needed or no housing.

Thank

Debbie and Larry, Dave, Alyssa, and 8 others thanked Mike



Ron T. from Magnolia Center · 3 Jan

Phil:

(1) Will County, state, or federal grant money be available to underwrite some of the costs of this program.

(2). If so, who will be providing the grant money and how much will it be. Or,

(3) If grant money will be made available, what will the formula be to determine the amount?

Thank



Darian D. from Canyon Crest · 3 Jan

Sorry not in favor.

Thank

Gail thanked Darian



Kyle M. from Arlanza North · 3 Jan

I just hiked the homeless camp area at "hole lake" off van Buren and jurupa and this is what I found



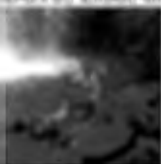
Thank
Dave, Lori, Lisa, and 2 others thanked Kyle



Kyle M. from Arlanza North · 3 Jan



Thank
Dave, Lisa, and elizabeth thanked Kyle



Carol M. from Downtown · 3 Jan

Can you turn your photos right side up?

Thank
Rolla and Bernice thanked Carol



Vincent G. from Victoria · 3 Jan

Did not even have to read the entire plan... the first few lines were enough, what they want to do is house all the homeless drug addicts on our dime...preconditions and barriers are exactly what is ... View more

Thank
Gary, Dave, Alyssa, and 14 others thanked Vincent



Connie D. from Victoria · 3 Jan

NEIGHBORS: This Saturday, January 6th, from 9:00-11:00 at the Arlington Library, the City is sponsoring a workshop on Houses First. If you oppose and have a voice, I would appreciate all of you attending, as Elissa and I will be there, with every intention of SPEAKING UP! The address of the library is 9556 Magnolia, Riverside. SEE YOU THERE!

I don't know where to start with how bad this plan is! Let's start with Elissa's response some time ago. She is a mental health professional. "The passing of those propositions only warrants further protection for this city's residents, as evidenced by the recent surge in crime perpetuated by vagrants. The idea of some sort of utopian society in which accountability is not expected of those that make poor choices is dangerous, period. The city should not decline to enforce vagrancy laws that are already in existence based on this unfounded theory. CONNIE'S ADDITION: WE ARE TOLD THAT RIVERSIDE HAS NO VAGRANTS!!!

There are solutions to this, but they are pragmatic and require the same level of pragmatism from leadership. Appeasing faith based communities should never be a priority, as their philosophies on many issues do not align with all that reside here in Riverside. At this time, residents need some appeasing, not the vagrants and churches. "

Additionally, there are multiple facets of Houses First that are uninformed. Here are just SOME of the problems with it:

*No criteria to get in housing

*NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE THAT THIS SOLVES THE PROBLEM

*No sobriety required of any kind, and don't have to be in treatment

*No mentally ill have to be in treatment programs

*No credit parameters and do not have to be classified as "tenant ready"

*No explanation as to who is paying for this

*No information as to the value of our homes IF this is enacted

*No acknowledgement that more people will be moving to Riverside from other states or counties for the free or cheap rent and Medicaid services that other states refuse to provide

You say the plan is to vet tenants--to find the ones that truly want to change their life. How? You should know that addicts will tell you anything you want to hear. Notice that the current Homeless Teams that are supposed to be getting "OUR NEIGHBORS WITHOUT HOMES" into treatment, are an abject failure. The homeless appear to be totally happy in their current circumstance. Why shouldn't they?

I am a compassionate person, not to be confused with ENABLING. I believe in personal responsibility and accountability for your decisions. HOUSES FIRST incorporates none of that. It hasn't worked in the two states that have adopted this. Los Angeles has ongoing prostitution and drug sales going on in HOUSES FIRST. There is NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE that Houses First works because it doesn't.

Our City leaders appear to not be concerned with what happens to our property values with these facilities embedded in our neighborhoods.

The City Council could enact various decisions to get rid of these vagrants, but they are so scared of

lawsuits that they do nothing to appease US. Am I on the warpath? You bet! THIS California has lost 240,000 taxpayers last year because California has created its own country that is lawless. I'm looking for the door if we cannot change the state and legislative leaders.

Thank

Gary, Dave, Alyssa, and 8 others thanked Connie



Ron T. from Magnolia Center · 3 Jan

Fact is neighbors, in order to solve a problem you have to try some things and see if they work. Housing first has worked, but may take some variations to get it humming.

I suggest that you read the article in this link. It was written on April 4, 2017, and begins with "Last week, Bergen County, New Jersey, was declared the first community in the U.S. to end chronic homelessness." It goes on to discuss the issue and successes around the country. This is VERY good.

<https://www.curbed.com/2017/4/4/15112866...>

Thank

Sheryl, Bernice, and the thanked Ron



Bernice G. from La Sierra Hills · 3 Jan

Ron T. Thank you for making sense and approaching the issue without being hateful

Thank



Cindy V. from Magnolia Center · 3 Jan

Phil Pitchford, where can I find the (CES) information? "All PSH programs will be in compliance with CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policies and Procedures, including use of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and accepting referrals from CES." I didn't see it in the Appendix List. Thanks in advance. I see the criteria of individuals established but had a question about committing new crimes and I don't see that addressed in the final draft (yet) and I'm wondering if it's in the CES Policies.

P.S. Just saw the press release. Will reach out there. Thanks.

Edited on 3 Jan

Thank



Cindy V. from Magnolia Center · 3 Jan

Kudos City of Riverside!!

Housing First Principles article states: "Over 90% of tenants accessing Housing First programs are able to retain housing stability!" That has to be a great model, to begin with. Homelessness costs everyone in a multitude of ways unless you are burying your head in the sand.

Where I come from it's a major turn for me to agree with a program that doesn't place a demand on eligibility first. I've come to believe that these issues are so big that they are singularly insurmountable. What an amazing city we have and awesome citizens working together to TRY to solve this very complex issue. I'm really proud to be a resident of Riverside. Thank you for getting this project off the ground. I'm in awe of the things that have been accomplished in our City recently by folks like you. Thank You. Happy New Year Everyone

ps I'm not quite finished the final draft and I will ask more questions no doubt.

Edited on 4 Jan



Marian Y. from Canyon Crest · 3 Jan

Phil Pitchford: And what are the good-faith efforts required or expected of the applicants in order to qualify in the screening process for placement into a home? What are the ramifications, if any, if they do not meet those expectations while in placement?

Thank

Gail thanked Marian



Lorie F. from Orange Terrace South · 3 Jan

How about putting some of these efforts toward our Homeless Veterans PTSD, they were there for us now we should be there for them. And... no all are not taken care of, some to proud to ask for help & trying to get thru these situations on their own because they stood strong for us, PTSD has taken a strong hold on them. I attended a Memorial for a homeless Vetran who was living in a hole he had dug out in the dirt in the Santa Ana River bed, he was found deceased in this hole, I heard hypothermia. If it was cold, hunger, illness, lack of medication, drug overdose to get thru another day of the unknown & being alone he should not have been living in a dirt hole! Maybe if he would have had an offer for assistance he may have accepted & maybe not but the offer would have been his choice. There's all kinds of reasons why these people don't have a choice or have a choice of being homeless. Experience with these panhandlers is this is how they want to be and choose to be, not have to work for anything and live off of those of us who work. So direction for help should go to those who want and need it & not to those that you have to hunt down for a free handout and don't even appreciate it and always come to expect it so why earn it? Who doesn't want a free hand out?

Thank

Gail, Gina, Elvira, and 1 other thanked Lorie



Ron T. from Magnolia Center · 3 Jan

Perhaps questions as well as comments should be addressed to:H1plancomment@riversideca.gov. They may have policy-specific information more readily available.

Thank

Marian thanked Ron



Marian Y. from Canyon Crest · 3 Jan

That's true, Ron. He did not really open this topic to discussion. He invited comments to be emailed or mailed. Thank you for the suggestion.

I would like to learn more about this program. Something has to be done. Being angry about homelessness or turning our backs on it will not resolve anything. I appreciate the effort ... any effort ... in trying to find the solution. I'm not going to kill the messenger on this one.

Thank

the thanked Marian



the A. from Alessandro Heights · 3 Jan

As someone working in an over taxed healthcare system at the receiving end of this issue along with our police force and emergency services, I have read the plan it is right on point ! Something that the most progressive cities are taking on, not to mention it is the right thing to do for our fellow human beings. Well done !

Thank

Sheryl thanked the



Sheryl D. from La Sierra · 3 Jan

I'll save my lengthy feedback regarding this plan for my email but I share the same sentiments as majority of folks in this thread. This is a band-aid and will not effectively solve the problem unless the right provisions for rehabilitation, accountability, and a detailed plan for a path that leads to change. There needs to be stipulations for the time length available to participate in this program and in the end it should help majority learn skills for employment and ultimately find a job. If not, what are we actually solving for the cost?

I was alarmed to see that out of \$1.8 million dollars funding for the Riverside Homeless program that only \$25k goes to the Riverside At Work (RAW) program (which came from a credit union grant), why is this?? (Site: <http://www.riversideca.gov/homelessolut...> select Program Budget) Are we not looking to reform and really help these individuals or are we looking for additional ways to obtain federal and city funds to throw a minimal amount to really resolve the core of the problem and spend the majority willy nilly? I think many folks have raised valid concerns about this plan with proposed amendments that should definitely be taken into serious consideration. There absolutely has to be a pre-requisite and thorough screening, detailed and specific program requirements, routine checks and verification throughout the program (to ensure accountability and responsibility) and for most an end date with assistance and expectations to obtain and retain employment (even if there is an offer to continue to subsidized their housing).

As Lorie stated I definitely agree that Veterans should be at the top of the list, helped and taken care of minimally as a thank you for their service. It is hard for a lot of them with PTSD to assimilate back into a normal life post deployment or war.

In the end I don't think anyone here is saying they don't want to help this growing problem, they are just saying that it has to address the core issues/root causes to really help if not you are just enabling the lifestyle at the expense of tax payers - this can't just be a handout.

Thank

Dave, Alyssa Vern, and 5 others thanked Elvira



Kathleen D. from Ramona-California · 4 Jan

So, anyone who is an addict and not in recovery, out on the streets.

Thank

Gail thanked Kathleen



Ron T. from Magnolia Center · 4 Jan

With respect to the accountability aspect of this homeless solutions effort, I would say that even though not specifically addressed, it is a part of the program.

I view this program like an injured person who has just arrived to an emergency room. The first thing that you do is stabilize them: Stop the bleeding, give them oxygen, provide them with fluids, etc. All the while evaluating what their injuries are. Once they are stable, you register them in the hospital and begin a course of therapy to heal their wounds.

At some point they will be well enough to move on to a prevention / rehabilitation program so that in the future they will not return. I believe that even though the City of Riverside has a history of wasting taxpayer dollars on bad ideas masked in bull poo poo, the current administration is smart enough to know that if they don't want a revolving door, they have to have rules. I think that they are downplaying the

accountability aspect to get through the initial healing aspect once the program is underway.

Why wouldn't Riverside want to be known as the first city in California to end homelessness or have the greatest success? People would want to come here because there are no walking-dead traversing our streets. Why would they want Riverside to be known as a place that vagrants can migrate to that **will** give them a free ride?

From what I have read there are approximately 400 homeless people wandering the streets and river bottom in Riverside. A homeless program without accountability will drive that number up substantially. Even though most of the residents are oblivious to most things local government related, if this program doubles or triples the vagrant population because of lack of accountability, even these folks will begin to notice.

I don't think that even the most heartless person wants to see the suffering that the street-people have to endure. Whether your concern is humanistic or property value related, fixing the problem is best for everyone.

I say answer Phil Pitchford's request for comments by submitting them to the email address above and give the city a chance to effect positive change. They can adjust as they move forward if what they are doing doesn't work. But it is well past the time to hit the start button.



Edited on 4 Jan

Thank

Sheryl, Raich and Denise thanked Ron



Kathleen D. from Ramona-California · 4 Jan

Please, all the high moral ground puritans out there, you dont know what you are talking about. I was homeless, not because of any addiction or mental problem (although i know some who may debatethat), because of poverty, disability, and a slow steady successions of bad luck. Living in my car finally ,while attending college and surviving on student loans. Until car was towed. Then on the street. Most of the food avaiability is for oneday or a few days , once a month.if isn't spoiled expired or loaded with sugar. Hot meals extremely difficult to get to unless your willing to sleep close by, or you stuck at night in unfamiliar place. And forget it if ypur A vegetarian. It's too scary to take food or bottled water even from strangers. And bus drivers , some, were awful to the homeless. Most of the " availability of resources" were old info, wrong numbers (if you could even make a call) or not true. Eight years, two in a wheelchair, waiting for housing. Still without using any substances, llegal or illegal. With God's help I survived, but it was not pretty, and people, except for many angels, were awful. Fourty years ago, my mom, with an office

job bought a non fixer upper, on Grand ave. For 14 thousand dollars. Whats changed is greed, the overinflation of real estate values and no where near the matching salaries. Even if i could work again which i would love to do, struggling to survive on soc.sec. , i still wouldnt be able to afford, or come close to affording that same house on Grand. Thats the reality. I'm exhausted just writing about it, try living it. And all the staring, finger pointing, and picture taking. Not to mention assaults. From non homeless people. I remember sitting around, on the ground, at the park with others, after a church service or spaghetti meal,(once a week) and we would talk about wishing for the time when we could just wake up in our own place or room and fix a cup of coffee and watch CNN. Thank you Jesus, i am eternally grateful for housing. And it's FOX news now. ❤️🐾🐾

Edited on 4 Jan

Thank

Sheryl, Ralph, me, and 1 other thanked Kathleen



Kathleen D. from Ramona-California · 4 Jan

Tiny homes, like a small mobile home park, with a central hub or ? Club house with laundry, maybe kitchen facilities for those who want to partake in community meals, place to have 12 step meetings. Community garden. Also to the city council members down on this option with out having "property management" folks getting involved, the churches are begging you to let them be involved, let them. They can have people who are experiencec be the managers or better yet the co-facillitators. Stop saying no automatically, start saying yes.

Thank

Sheryl, Fran, and Denise thanked Kathleen



Matt N. from La Sierra Acres · 4 Jan

I really enjoy hearing everyone's thoughts on this. Please continue to brainstorm.



Gail L. from Mission Grove · 5 Jan

Let's see how this is really going to work. I have my doubts.

Thank



Gail L. from Mission Grove · 5 Jan

So once again I ask, what happens to the vagrants who don't want your help? Anyone come up with a plan for that?

Thank



Ron T. from Magnolia Center · 5 Jan

Since it isn't against the law to be homeless, I suspect that they will continue living as they have been on the streets. It will be up to law and code enforcement to do their jobs as sad as they may be.

We need to realize that this nor any other type program will have 100% positive results. Those that can be saved get saved, those that don't, don't.

Thank

Nana thanked Ron



Susan N. from Hawarden Hills · 5 Jan

Anaheim city council voted today to clear out homeless encampment near Anaheim stadium

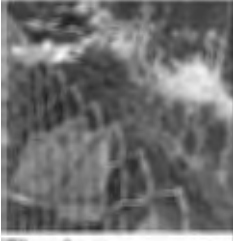
Thank

Dan thanked Susan



Sharon G. from Canyon Crest · 9 Jan

As a property owner and manager of a small shopping center, I face the homeless situation daily. I can get NO HELP in getting these people off of our property. They have filthy, dirty encampments on the Caltrans side of the fence. They cut through the fences and pull them back for access through our property. They walk, sleep, urinate and defecate on our property. They have actually pitched tents on our property. They DO NOT want a homeless shelter because they deal drugs and use them openly. They scare the tenants and customers. The police and California highway patrol say there is nothing they can do. Caltrans say they have to serve a 3 day notice, but, I cannot get them to even come out. I am angry and at a loss for knowing what to do. Can anyone help???



Thank

Alyssa, Ron, and Gail thanked Sharon



Communications Officer Phil Pitchford from City of Riverside · 9 Jan

Quick update: the comment period has been extended to Feb. 12.

Thank you!

Thank



Donovan A. from Victoria · 9 Jan

How about Following federal law when it comes to veterans benefits Riverside County Onbudsman you do not care about veterans you do not honor veterans and you violate veteran civil rights which carsveterans to become homeless which causes veterans to commit suicide which causes veterans to not care about life if anyone from the city official he wants to sit down and talk to me about what is going on and how Riverside County is violating civil rights and constitutional rights of veterans feel free let's do it

Thank



Jazz S. from Wood Streets · 9 Jan

I agree with all our veterans. Take care of our vets before anything.

Thank

Kathleen and Donovan thanked Jazz



Wanda V. from La Sierra Hills · 9 Jan

Vets should be first on our list of people to help!!

Thank

Donovan and Jazz thanked Wanda



Tami M. from Airport · 9 Jan

Does this take into consideration the high volume of willing homelessness? There is a large percentage of homelessness population that desires to remain homeless. They enjoy their freedom - freedom from being tied down, freedom from responsibility, freedom from encumbrment. We cannot force them into shelters. How do we keep our city clean and homeless encampments?

Thank

Ahessa and Jazz thanked Tami



Tami M. from Airport · 9 Jan

Oops- free from homeless encampments?

Thank

Jazz thanked Tami



Elvira D. from La Sierra · 9 Jan

Susan N - did they share how they were going to accomplish clearing out the encampment? I was surprised in a recent trip to SF to see that every direction I turned on each street in the downtown area there were large groups of homeless people. I couldn't believe the size of the homeless population within just a few square miles (think skid row on each street). Someone mentioned that a bunch of them were bused in or given a one way ticket from NY a few years ago. I'm not sure how much truth is behind that but just curious if Anaheim is considering moving them to another city?

Thank



Connie D. from Victoria · 10 Jan

I go to see my daughter in San Rafael and she works in San Francisco. SF has become a pit. They are on most corners; one even pooped in front of me as I was stopped at a light. The solution to this is pragmatic; meaning it may look heartless to some, but accomplished the goal. Planting these folks in our neighborhoods isn't heartless???? It accomplishes the Council's goal of getting them off the street, but ONCE AGAIN, PUTS IT ON THE BACKS OF THE TAX PAYING RESIDENTS!

Thank

Casandra thanked Connie



Kathleen D. from Ramona-California · 10 Jan

The large percentage of people who are homeless, dont want to be homeless. Get your facts straight.

Thank

Dana and Casandra thanked Kathleen



Casandra A. from La Sierra · 10 Jan

I agree, Kathleen, the majority do not want to be homeless. There are programs to help them, but the initiative must be taken on their part as well.

Thank



Casandra A. from La Sierra · 10 Jan

The city should do their part of going out to see where they dwell and make them aware of programs for them.

Thank

Connie and Kathleen thanked Casandra



Billy C. from Canyon Crest · 10 Jan

Phil - you have replied to previous critical comments with the stance that the city's screening process will sort out the bad from the good. The problem with your statement is that based on the ... [View more](#)

Thank

Gary, Alyssa, Leah, and 1 other thanked Billy



Connie D. from Victoria · 10 Jan

Casandra—the Council takes pride in the fact that they have teams going into the encampments to offer services. No surprise—these “neighbors without homes” refuse the services! So it appears that Mayor Bailey’s goal is to get them off the street AND INTO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!! What’s not to like on the part of the homeless? A warm bed, a kitchen, a real toilet—and no sobriety is required! I am appalled at those neighbors that are on board to fight this. I heard the City say last Saturday that 2-4 facilities WILL GO IN EVERY WARD!!

Thank

Alyssa and Gail thanked Connie



Connie D. from Victoria · 10 Jan

Billy, well said! In addition, I would add they are not only coming from surrounding cities; they are also migrating from other states that don't give the free stuff on the backs of taxpayers. The city has convinced the Council to contribute \$500,000 from Measure Z every year. Did you vote or have any input on that decision. People keep wondering why we don't have more police. The problem is that there is no jail space!!

Thank

Alyssa, Billy, Gail, and 1 other thanked Connie



Kathleen D. from Ramona-California · 10 Jan

Sorry, but the homeless "out reach" team is a joke, and the homeless know it. Not to mention leaving their animals. And no, there are only one or two large dog (tiny) kennels at the homeless shelter. If, if they can get it all together in 50 days or less. That's all their id, job, down payment and apt. Even with a car, good credit, and money that's a lot to ask.

Edited on 10 Jan

Thank



Vern G. from Hawarden Hills · 11 Jan

Hello Robin; 300 homeless counted for Riverside County?

I think that's the count just for the Riverside Plaza area. And that does not include The Campers in the River Bottom.

Thank

Gail and Leah thanked Vern



Robin-Jo R. from Downtown · 11 Jan

After learning more about this program I believe it's a step in a positive direction.

I feel a sense of security knowing there will be more control and monitoring of the current homeless situation. Instead of them continuing to roam around carelessly to freely commit crimes, should their desperation see fit.

It's most definitely a Maslow's hierarchy of needs being met here.

Thank



Robin-Jo R. from Downtown · 11 Jan

At Vern.

My perspective reposted without doubt.

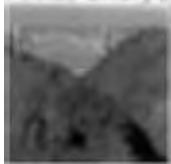


Ralph T. from Cowboy Streets · 11 Jan

You gotta have an address before you can "pick yourself up". Proud of my city for taking the initiative to move forward with a plan that makes good use of the \$\$\$ that already come out of my pocket to address homelessness.

Thank

Anita, Sheryl, Ron, and 2 others thanked Ralph



Bertha B. from Magnolia Center · 11 Jan

The link you provided is not working

Thank



Communications Officer Phil Pitchford from City of Riverside · 12 Jan

This is posted elsewhere on our Nextdoor page, but just in case you missed it, or are only following this thread:

"HOUSING FIRST: Housing for Our Neighbors Without Homes"

The Community & Economic Development Department's Neighborhood Engagement Division is proud to present a new workshop series based on comments and input from residents regarding topics that they are interested in learning more about.

Due to the overwhelming success of the "Housing First: Housing for Our Homeless Neighbors" workshop, we have been asked to add three Special Edition NEWS events for residents who were unable to attend the January 6th event!

The added dates/locations are as follows:

Saturday, January 27th, 9:00am - 11:00am, Bobby Bonds Community Center, 2060 University Ave.

Saturday, February 3rd, 10:00am - 12:00pm, La Sierra Senior Center, 5215 La Sierra Ave.

Saturday, February 10th, 9:00am - 11:00am, Joyce Jackson Community Center, 5505 Dewey Ave.

These workshop will be presented by the City Manager's Office of Homeless Solutions. Please see flyers for details.

Please note: As a result of community input, the Public Comment Period for the Housing First Strategy has been EXTENDED from January 25th to February 12th.

Refreshments will be provided. For questions related to the NEWS, please contact Yvette Sennewald at (951) 826-5168 or e-mail Neighbor@RiversideCa.gov

Thank

Elvira and Sheryl thanked Phil



Chuck D. from La Sierra Hills · 12 Jan

We need to stop with this feel good nonsense of "Housing for Our Neighbors Without Homes". How many of your "neighbors" defecate on your lawn, urinate on your fence or steal stuff out of your car? Yes, homelessness is an important issue but please stop trying to put lipstick on this pig. The majority of the people you see are long term homeless. This is usually associated with drug use, mental illness or personal choice and they generally refuse help. Short term homelessness is a different matter and is usually a circumstance based issue that can be helped.

Thank

Lily, Dean, Christopher, and 9 others thanked Chuck



Vern G. from Hawarden Hills · 12 Jan

I think that the term "Neighbors Without Homes" is biased. These homeless campers we see around town are transients. They do not live here on a permanent basis. They hang out in Riverside because the politicians do not push the Police to enforce the law, that is, until the campers start a fire near the Downtown area that gets peoples attention. Then the Police are encouraged to enforce the "No overnight camping law."

Thank

Gary, Alesia, Billy, and 3 others thanked Vern



Ron T. from Magnolia Center · 13 Jan

For all of you nay sayers out there, here are a half dozen quotes from you operations manual:

Proverbs 14:31: Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

Matthew 5:42: Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Proverbs 28:27: Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.

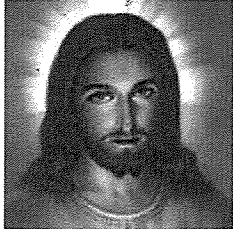
Deuteronomy 15:1: For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

Proverbs 14:21: Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

Proverbs 29:7: A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.

Have a nice day!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Gx1Pv02...>



Edited on 14 Jan

Thank

Sheryl, Ralph, Robin-Jo, and 1 other thanked Ron



Jennifer B. from Canyon Crest · 13 Jan

The link to the Riverside Housing First plan in the post above no longer works, here is a link from a recent Press Enterprise article:

<https://www.riversideca.gov/homelessolu...>

Edited on 13 Jan



Ralph T. from Cowboy Streets · 13 Jan

Quite the times when you see a Christian work so hard to be selective about which of God's kids are decent enough for mercy. Greed and sloth: two sides of the same coin...

Edited on 13 Jan



Fran Z. from La Sierra South · 13 Jan

Please let us not forget the word "discrimination" there are people that want to better their lives, but the economy hopelessness, and other things just seem a bit much for them. They too need an advocate in their corner. And like Ron said so will take advantage of the opportunities others won't. We do need to pray while in our comfy warm homes, "There, but by the grace of God go I" We worked hard and got ahead. We can't say what horrific things they went through, till we walk in their shoes. Enough bible verses? My granddaughter and boy friend are being evicted because of discrimination. He's white and she's the kindness latina, born in the good old USA. NEVER caught a break. The manager is an educated white man.

They never missed a rent payment in 17 years. Four years ago she moved in and he has bullied (I thought that happen on the internet or in schools). But last night she was so distraught behind this, she was willing to give up.

They called her wetback, fat pig. It has been horrible. I instructed her to call the ACLU and other discriminatory agents. We're not stupid or ignorant, our skin is a different color, but our BLOOD is red. Our hearts are loving. Not they will be homeless in 60 days. So you see. Excuse me, but shit happens. God is on our side and is not dead or deaf. He hears the cry of his people. I rest my case. AMEN

Thank

Ralph and Rubin-Jo thanked Fran



Kathleen D. from Ramona-California · 13 Jan

You can use the bible out of context or the times for pretty much anything you can fanagle. 🙄

Thank



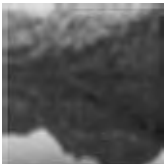
Chuck D. from La Sierra Hills · 13 Jan

All,

I removed my earlier post, I allowed myself to get "trolled" and my post came across as unkind and unfeeling and for that I apologize.

Thank

Dan thanked Chuck



Gary C. from Magnolia Center · 14 Jan

These are not my neighbors. Most show up in Riverside because they can settle here with very little hassle from authorities. Where my son lives in Hermosa Beach, the cops are on you like white on rice if you are pushing a cart with your stuff in it. My niece lives in San Fransisco, a house that would sell for 2 million and homeless are camped in front of it. It all depends on the policies of the city. Riverside has this problem now because they let it happen. For whatever reason, and there are many, this problem was not

addressed. There are plenty of laws on the books that could have been used to stem this problem. Now everyone is running around like their hair is on fire looking for a solution. Drive down by South Coast Plaza, or Newport. Was there all day Saturday and didn't see one person pushing a cart around. Guess they found a solution. Got back to Riverside and two people in their under ware are washing themselves in front of Jack-in-the-Box on Central. Welcome home.

Thank

Christopher, pe, Lisa, and 3 others thanked Gary



Communications Officer Phil Pitchford from City of Riverside · 16 Jan

Thank you for your patience regarding the link, please use this one:

<https://www.riversideca.gov/HomelessSolu...>



Sheryl H. from Wood Streets · 4d ago

Someone not having a place to live is not simply a law enforcement issue. I believe It's a reflection of our society. In most of CA, we have increasingly priced out low income people from our housing market, we do not provide sufficient care for our mentally ill, disabled vets, and our addicted population (yes, they need "free services" as they are ill and unable to work or get better on their own, and it costs us more to ignore them or jail them). So, it is not a radical leap of faith to say that providing housing will prevent many of the problems these people have. Yes, 1% will stay on the streets no matter what, let's help the rest.

Thank

Dana and Robin-Jo thanked Sheryl

PSHplancomment

From: Kyle Sweeney <ksweeney42@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 10:18 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] H1 plan comment

I have looked at the housing first plan and completely support it. I am extremely happy to see the city using evidence based and humane methods to aid some of our cities most vulnerable people. I very much hope this program will help support those who are non-gender confirming to express their identities and combat dysphoria as part of the mental help services provided. Too often these individuals are left behind or harmed by programs meant to aid the homeless.

-Kyle Sweeney
Ward 2

PSHplancomment

From: JAMES WRIGHT <lonewolfjw33@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:43 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Fw: H1plan meeting 2/12/18

On Monday, February 5, 2018 8:17 AM, JAMES WRIGHT <lonewolfjw33@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Mike; In speaking to my neighbors about the ward 3, site 3. Nogales street proposal, we are against it. and ask you to represent your constituents on this matter. My next door neighbors Veronica and Alfredo Have voiced there concerns in the press enterprise piece the forgotten street. Verónica is a supervisor for the Salvation Army, and deals with the homeless on a daily basis. Alfredo is a volunteer cook at the group homes and halfway houses in the area. They feel there are to many homeless people hanging out, and sleeping in the neighborhood . I am retired from the probation department, and think we are saturated with with group homes, and homeless people in the neighborhood. Please check for compliance in this matter. Izaac Rodarte, Is a Riverside county Sheriff. He is very concerned with the safety of the neighborhood, To many homeless and group home people hanging out on Nogales street. Kimberly Cardenas; county mental health worker is very disappointed and concerned with the loitering of homeless and overnight campers on Nogales street. In reading the Fair housing act about the houses proposed on Nogales street I see problems that we already have. Comply with governing documents. Traffic, Parking,sitting out in the front yard, noise. We have a parking problem with the site three ward three proposal. This has been reported to code compliance case # 16-05191. There are no parking spots during the week at said site proposal. You are welcome to read this at the meeting on 2/12/18. I will try to be at the meeting 2/10/18 9am on Dewey street. James Wright

PSHplancomment

From: Kimberly Cardenas <kimi327kj@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 2:40 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Riv.co head of project

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kimberly Cardenas I am a resident of Nogales St. This is a public comment in regards the street Nogales. We have an influx of homelessness roaming the neighborhood. I have noticed an increase of traffic in the area and parking issues due to the DMV. Just last week we had a couple living in an RV for 4 days in which the city did nothing to enforce Riv V.C. code 10.52.175 after class from neighborhood. Therefore, I had to call the city to ask the couple to leave. I disagree with your proposal, this street is over burden already!. I plan on attending the Neighborhood engagement to discuss our concerns!

Thank you!

Community resident-Kimberly Cardenas

From: "**Kathleen Hoffman**" <rubysgrandma9@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 1:31 PM -0800
Subject: [External] Homeless solutions
To: "Gardner, Mike" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>

Good afternoon,

I have severe misgivings re. the homeless solutions being proposed by the City of Riverside for the following reasons:

1. Housing homeless individuals in the midst of established residents will drive the value of our homes down.
2. Providing the homeless with housing will simply encourage more homeless to come to Riverside.
3. At some point federal/state grant funds will prove insufficient for the maintenance of the housing being constructed/secured -- at which point the taxpayers of Riverside will be held responsible for costs that lead to the degradation of our own property values. What's right about that?
4. Crime is already at an upswing, and the County does not have sufficient jail facilities for those responsible, so they are being released onto our streets. Since housing would encourage more homeless and the related criminals here, what chance does the Riverside Police Department have to curb future crimes. We need more jail facilities, hopefully in remote areas so RPD has a chance to improve our streets. Instead you would spend money to bring more crime here!

It is my understanding that several municipalities in Southern California are trying to organize a consortium to identify and construct a more advanced method of dealing with the homeless. Isn't it time for Riverside to join that group?

Thanks,
Kathleen Hoffman
3198 Locust Street

From: <finewine45@charter.net>

Date: February 4, 2018 at 11:39:37 AM PST

To: "rbailey@riversideca.gov" <rbailey@riversideca.gov>, "jperry@riversideca.gov" <jperry@riversideca.gov>, "asmeledrez@riversideca.gov" <asmeledrez@riversideca.gov>, "msoubirous@riversideca.gov" <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>, "cconder@riversideca.gov" <cconder@riversideca.gov>, "mgardner@riversideca.gov" <mgardner@riversideca.gov>, "cmacarthur@riversideca.gov" <cmacarthur@riversideca.gov>, "sadams@riversideca.gov" <sadams@riversideca.gov>, "cnicol@riversideca.gov" <cnicol@riversideca.gov>

Subject: [External] Housing First proposal

I would like to express my concern regarding the Housing First Project and would appreciate them being answered and addressed.

I understand the need to find housing for our growing homeless population and lower income residents. There are many things to this program that I find objectionable. First and foremost these developments are based on requirements that in which to build they have to be put in areas close to shopping, public transportation and medical care which means that the more urban areas of Riverside will bear the entire brunt of housing whereas the more suburban areas will not. Our neighborhoods are already overpopulated and we have overcrowding in our schools and atrocious traffic congestion and now the city proposed adding more without telling us how this will impact our basic services, like police and fire. Are there any immediate plans to hire more personnel to accommodate our neighborhood needs?

Where is the money for this "long term rental assistance paired with intensive service's" coming from? There are absolutely no requirements to receive housing services, which means although it states services are offered, the tenant can refuse to participate and continue in a lifestyle not conducive to the general community standards and still be housed. It states in the Housing First draft that "the use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction." I strongly object to this!!!!!! If someone continues criminal behavior which illegal drugs are why should the community support them. If someone has a mental health issue and refuses treatment then why should my grandchildren be put at risk. To me it is just taking a visible problem we all see on the streets and putting it inside. This is not what I envisioned when I bought my house in Ward 6.

Why would Housing First policies be to "screen in" rather than "screen out" applicants? A screening process would ensure that the people who need it such as our veterans, seniors and families and who are willing to become productive members of society to the best of their ability would be housed over the homeless population that just wants to continue to abuse the system and put a drain on our limited tax dollars. Lets help those who want to better themselves FIRST!!!!!!

What procedure is in place that would weed out the homeless from other cities from coming into our communities to receive these benefits. As we all know our neighboring cities or Jurupa, Norco and Corona all have the same problem and I am unaware of them jumping on the band wagon of Housing First. Norco has very few apartments by design yet we want to among other things, put up tiny "cabins" to house the homeless. Other than a Homeless Outreach Team, Corona does little to nothing to address their homeless problem other than to try to move them

into other cities. My concern is that Riverside the city of art and innovation will be seen as the city of handouts with no accountability.

All of Riverside residents deserve the ability to live in safe clean environments and the streets are not the place for that for many reasons. Yet I strongly believe that in order to fit into the community all people should be accountable to contribute and be responsible not just the taxpaying public. I taught my children to be productive members of society yet this proposed project is not mandating the same of its clients.

The city has asked the community to voice their thoughts and concerns and I think the city needs to step up and actually listen to the voices of the voters.

Thanks for the opportunity to be another voice in this on-going controversy.

From: chardin226 [<mailto:chardin226@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 7:31 AM

To: Perry, Jim <JPerry@riversideca.gov>; Conder, Chuck <CConder@riversideca.gov>; Melendrez, Aurelio <AMelendrez@riversideca.gov>; Nicol, Colleen <CNicol@riversideca.gov>; Soubirous, Mike <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>; Adams, Steven <SAdams@riversideca.gov>; MacArthur, Chris <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>; mgardner@riversideca.gov

Subject: [External] Housing First

Good morning. I oppose housing first as it is currently written. I am opposed to housing illegal immigrants who are homeless. I do believe that housing should be provided for foster children who are leaving the Foster system and need some assistance. Homeless individuals and families that are currently attempting some type of self-help deserve our help. Families living in cars absolutely deserve a helping hand. However the way you have this program laid out, case managers are going to be overwhelmed. I do understand we do spend money to help clean up homeless encampments which could be put towards this program.

However, I do oppose to using American citizens tax dollars to support people who make no effort to support themselves or who are in this country illegally. I believe you have a start on what could be a workable program semicolon but as it is now written, I oppose it.

Cheryl Hardin
4254 Lockhaven Lane
Riverside California 92505

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 3:54 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Housing First

Comments.

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: DWIGHT TATE [mailto:dud2@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 1:48 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio; Nguyen, Alexander
Cc: Soubirous, Mike; Gardner, Mike; Melendrez, Andy; Conder, Chuck; MacArthur, Chris; Perry, Jim; Adams, Steven; Bailey, Rusty; Russo, John A.
Subject: [External] Housing First

Emilio and Alex--I think you have done a fantastic job with your presentations on Housing First for Riverside. As you know, I am fully supportive of this philosophy. Anyone who reads the 69 pages of the Final Draft will be assured that Housing First is a responsible answer to meeting our local challenges for homelessness. I salute the City Council for deciding that "Doing Nothing" is no longer an option.

I wanted to make a few brief comments about the meeting I attended. I should preface this with my own history of opinions about homelessness. It was not that long ago that I believed we should only help people that wanted help, and that could manage to succeed along several steps leading to housing. Then I read the book, "Housing First" and grappled with the concept of whether or not housing, decent livable housing, was in fact high up on the list of human rights. More practically, if we decide to help only those that want help, what exactly are we offering homeless people? The short answer is, for the majority, nothing. In the vernacular, what's in it for them? That is, if we are offering nothing that would encourage changing behavior,

changing circumstances, why would anyone be motivated to change? Housing First tackles these issues directly.

Sorry for the digression. I think the major issue brought up in the meeting I attended, was the appearance of giving people something for nothing. This can be addressed by pointing out the myriad support services and interventions that are in place and will be utilized. Among other things, helping people get their finances in order will defray some programmatic expenses. Without individualized support and access to services, the program cannot succeed. Emphasizing that all the appropriate services will be involved as a condition of participation, should help. Also, I think emphasizing the incredible success rate of 70, 80, 90 percent overall, and our local Riverside success rate, should speak to some questions about efficacy.

Some people in the audience see all homeless people as criminals. I am not sure what arguments would counter this, other than to say statistically it is not true. Putting all homeless people in jail is not an answer. The cost would be staggering. Perhaps the police are already supportive of the Housing First concept if they have had enough experience with it to see that it works, and provides resources for them out in the community when they are called. It is always difficult to "prove a negative" in that the costs avoided by fewer incarcerations and hospitalizations are not immediately demonstrable.

Surprisingly, there was not much discussion of "NIMBY" at the meeting. I think the idea that homeless people are not limited to one Ward or one area, and that facilities will be located on all wards is a very rational approach. The fact that there are already facilities in place, and they are succeeding, is very persuasive.

I wish you nothing but success in all your presentations. I am excited that my home town is on its way to significantly helping many of our

neighbors change their circumstances and change their lives!--Dwight
(Tate, 92506)

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 1:38 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery; Davis, Michelle
Subject: FW: [External] Fw: Housing First In Riverside

More comments

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: DWIGHT TATE [mailto:dud2@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 1:34 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Cc: Nguyen, Alexander; McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: [External] Fw: Housing First In Riverside

Emilio--I took the liberty of sending the Draft Plan to Dr. Henwood at USC, one of the co-authors of "Housing First". (I think he may have been involved with one of the early conferences on homelessness in Riverside.) I think his comments are thoughtful, and optimistic about implementation, but with recognition of some "headwinds" based on the changes in the political climate. Hopefully, I'll get to see you Saturday!--
dt

On Monday, January 29, 2018 9:33 PM, Benjamin Henwood <bhenwood@usc.edu> wrote:

Hi Dwight,

Thanks so much for letting me know about the draft housing plan, which really seems to be pulling the pieces together. I like the rationale behind the plan and glad to see housing first embraced. In general, I worry that the worsening of the housing market makes the target goal (roughly 400 unsheltered) a moving target, which I think would be good to acknowledge. I also know that the new tax plans makes tax credits for development less attractive, which definitely affects 1 of the models being considered. Lastly, it would be good to know that there's some involvement of those for whom the plan is being developed, since we want to make sure the idea that "if we build it they will come" holds true. Hope that makes sense. Always happy to discuss.

Thanks again!

Ben

From: DWIGHT TATE <dud2@sbcglobal.net>
Reply-To: DWIGHT TATE <dud2@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 at 12:42 PM
To: Benjamin Henwood <bhenwood@usc.edu>
Cc: Scarlett Osterling <sosterli@usc.edu>
Subject: Housing First In Riverside

Dr. Henwood--I thought you would be interested in the efforts here in my home town. I have attached the Executive Summary. I have also included the City's link to the program, which shows the Draft Housing Plan, and Housing first principles. I think it is a comprehensive effort that is gaining momentum. There is so far firm commitment on the part of the City Council that "doing nothing" is not a realistic option. I believe you have been to Riverside before, so that if you had any comments, I am sure they would be appreciated. Thanks for all your good work for our homeless neighbors!--Dwight (Tate, MSW '77)

Homeless in Riverside

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| Homeless in Riverside |
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PSHplancomment

From: S. Cash <s-cash@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 11:58 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comment H1

I am strongly in favor to Riverside moving forward with Housing First for the homeless, which includes redefining zoning and other restrictions, and facilitating funding from city sources and through public/private partnerships.

Housing First has a successful track record of providing the basic housing with services that can lead those that are homeless to a better life. This is a strategy that has shown the investment of funds and services offer a better returns by not only relieving suffering, but also to the health and security of the community.

I attended three meetings where city staff provided information on Housing First. The first meeting I attended included over 200 participants. Some are called by their faith to aid the poor and homeless, others are called by their humanity to help others suffering and in need. Riverside citizens have a history of letting their values guide the direction of the city; this is a time when that is called for.

Susan Cash, Ward 2

PSHplancomment

From: David Anderson <David.Anderson@seccsda.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 11:29 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless housing comment

Dear Sirs,

I would like to laud you on a well thought out idea to help homelessness in the inland empire. However, as a concerned parent, I have an issue with the proposed site at the corner of Pierce St and Golden Ave in Ward 7. I do not believe this development should be right across the street from a school. Thank you for noting my concerns.

Sincerely,

David V. Anderson

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Davis, Michelle
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 6:16 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Cc: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: Re: [External] Wednesday evening mtg re: H1

Great comments and feedback on how we can get more buy in. Make sure we invite him to the CC on March 13th.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 29, 2018, at 5:46 PM, Ramirez, Emilio <ERamirez@riversideca.gov> wrote:

Thank You.

<image001.png>

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: Robert Robinson [<mailto:rrobin999@att.net>]
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 5:33 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: [External] Wednesday evening mtg re: H1

Sir:

I am very pleased that the city is pursuing the Housing First model, and I was impressed with your knowledge of the processes, operations, and expected outcomes.

I was NOT, however (though not surprised), pleased with some of the audience response. I do not envy you or other city officials who will certainly continue to be faced with the likes of the gentleman whose five minute diatribe only revealed his distaste for citizens whose lot in life is less than his. I am certain you will face many iterations of him as you continue to attempt to educate the public.

That said, I have some suggestions based on my experience as both a senior military officer and an educator:

1. Continue emphasizing the rationale for the sites selected. Connecting this to the needs of school-aged children, e.g., seems to me to be a strong "buy-in" point.
2. Emphasize the fiscal benefits to the city budget. Judiciously using examples from successful extant programs might be useful to those citizens

actually interested in solutions rather than in seeking a forum for their personal biases. You might want to convince people that if it isn't going to take monies away from other city services---no matter the initial expense--- why would they oppose it on fiscal grounds? And, yes, I know data are difficult to make interesting; that's on the presenter!

3. Your presentation might benefit from greater emphasis on just who "those people" are: veterans (everyone likes veterans), children (it's pretty tough to publically dislike kids), women (surely the "over 50" demographic can be used to garner empathy at least!). Too many people I speak with believe the "homeless" are all addicted and like the lifestyle they live! A graphic with data DOES NOT have to be elucidated, just observed.

4. Lastly: If it were I, I would not suffer fools---that is, every civic proposal is likely to have detractors for a variety of reasons. I believe it is important to diminish the "floor time" of those like the aforementioned gentleman---takes some skill and maybe a little chutzpah?

I have not intended in any way to disparage your abilities as a presenter and city representative; let me repeat that I was impressed and pleased. I wish you much success going forward.

Captain R. J. Robinson, PhD
U.S. Navy (ret)

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 3:43 PM
To: C2C - gene.sherman@vacademy.com; Thomas, Shaleah
Cc: McLaughlin, Jeffery; Davis, Michelle
Subject: RE: [External] Thank you

This is great. Thank you.

Thank You.



Office of Homeless Solutions

From: Gene Sherman [mailto:gene.sherman@vacademy.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 12:20 AM
To: Thomas, Shaleah; Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: [External] Thank you

Emilio,

Thank you again for lunch and for listening to my small habitat ideas.

Please know that what I am proposing comes from someone who wants to do good, not from an expert in the field of homes or homelessness. But I do have a track record of "making" things happen and am willing to put effort into this project. I think we both see the potential of this affect many lives.

The steps?

1. Create a proposal to promote the idea and raise some funding.
2. Build a demonstrator to determine costs and skills necessary.
3. Use demonstrator to raise more funding for materials and training.
4. Give people skills, have them build more "cabins" in that parking lot
5. Create a demonstrator village. Create a system, repeat!

Perhaps Smart Riverside will get involved. We want these cabins to have technology build it. I'll do some digging.

I'll start working on a proposal and will send you some drafts along the way. I welcome your feedback and guidance. I'd also welcome any connections that may help make this happen and info on other places trying to do something similar.

Take care,

From: Stephanie Easton [mailto:Stephanie.Easton@alvordschools.org]

Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 9:33 AM

To: Adams, Steven <SAdams@riversideca.gov>; Perry, Jim <JPerry@riversideca.gov>; Bailey, Rusty <RBAiley@riversideca.gov>; Soubirous, Mike <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>; AMELEDREZ@RIVERSIDECA.GOV; Gardner, Mike <MGardner@riversideca.gov>; MacArthur, Chris <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>; Conder, Chuck <CConder@riversideca.gov>

Cc: Nicol, Colleen <CNicol@riversideca.gov>

Subject: [External] Housing First in Wards 6/7

Importance: High

Hello,

I am writing for my husband (Gerald C. Easton) & I who are against the Housing First, as being thrown into any new single Family zoning projects. (La Sierra/Arlington)

I do not think this Housing First should be considered as written. There is NO CONTROL over this program; no requirements for sobriety, to be drug free, to work, to enroll in sobriety programs, drug rehab, job training or to accept employment. I recognize that these programs will be available to assist those accepted, but there is NO REQUIREMENT that any of the homeless that we house will accept them.

Housing First is written for "homeless" as the ONLY qualifier which invites any and every homeless person from ANYWHERE to get on the bus and come to Riverside. (Which is what some States do to get them out of their area) Why are we need to have other Places, states Etc. send them to Riverside?

We need a partnership....work for substance. HELP PEOPLE SURVIVE AND GET ONTO THEIR FEET and to make America better. Riverside has needs that aren't being met with road improvement, park maintenance, tree trimming, and many, many other things that we are told the budget cannot support....let's start incorporate a work ethic here in Riverside...homeless can work, have pride and our city can flourish.

These are my comments on the HOUSING FIRST. I oppose Housing First as it is written. You do need to rethink the advantages, disadvantages, the benefits and the pit falls.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. Leo Buscaglia

Stephanie Easton, Library Asst. II / 38 Year resident / homeowner / Ward 7
Wells Middle School
10000 Wells Ave
Riverside, Ca 92503
HOME # 951-688-9834

From: tunerutan <tunerutan@aol.com>

Date: January 31, 2018 at 5:14:07 PM PST

To: 'Chris MacArthur' <cmacarthur@riversideca.gov>, 'Mike Gardner' <mike_gardner@att.net>, Andy Melendrez <asmelendrez@riversideca.gov>, "Chuck Condor" <cconder@riversideca.gov>, cnicol <cnicol@riversideca.gov>, "Jim J. 'Perry'" <JPerry@riversideca.gov>, Mike 'Soubirous' <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>, Steven Adams <sadams@riversideca.gov>

Subject: [External] Housing First

After reviewing the Housing First Plan, I have several concerns.

I am opposed to your vision of Housing First. I do recognize the need to do something about our homeless population. However the way your plan is written, there are no requirements to be enrolled in any type of self-help program. I am vehemently opposed to giving a handout with my hard- tax dollars. I believe in giving a helping hand but not a handout.

Requiring some type of community service or employment as a requisite for some type of housing would help build their self-esteem. Everyone needs to be needed. To allow someone to move into a house that they have no vested interest in is a disaster waiting to happen. Who's going to be paying for their electricity, their water, their heat ?Are we furnishing that as well?

I am concerned about letting people with drug problems moving in and being allowed to continue their drug habits selling their drugs in a home we provided just so we don't" see". I am concerned that they will just pillage the neighborhood for extra spending money. Which I understand, happens anyway. I just don't see providing them a house is beneficial.

Again, as housing first is written, I oppose it! I would like my concerns to go on record.

Cheryl Hardin
4254 Lockhaven Lane
Riverside California 92505

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

cc: Mayor
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
ACMs
C&ED Director

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 12:26 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: FW: [External] Todays Meeting

i think i may have forgot to forward this comment.

Thank you.

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: Nanci Larsen [larsen@missioninnmuseum.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 10:06 AM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Cc: Donna Stephenson
Subject: [External] Todays Meeting

Emielo,

Thank you for taking time to answer mine and Donna's questions this morning. I understand yours is an uphill battle, but I think I now have the most honest and truthful answers ever from the city. (Which is because I believe you have the welfare of the city in mind.) I would like to see this project work, and you are correct homeless does carry a stigma with it. Since I truly believe that we have all learned from the experiences of, Su Casa, and the Monte Vista, I hope the safeguards you mention can help keep us from failure. But like you said everything is subject to change.

I will talk with Dr. Issac in the near future and I believe his intentions are altruistic. Maybe after I will be as confident as you are in this project's success.

Once again thank you for your time, as I think I am much closer now to support of this project. But it would be untruthful to say I'm not still worried about all the variables. Please let me know next time you have a meeting in my area as I will love to attend and voice my support in the combination of the partnership with RCC and homeless aged out foster youth.

Have a wonderful day and again thank you for your time.

Nanci Larsen
3160 Brockton Ave.
Riverside, CA. 92501
951-640-5757

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:51 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery; Davis, Michelle
Subject: FW: [External] Housing First

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: DWIGHT TATE [mailto:dud2@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 2:24 PM
To: Adams, Steven
Cc: Perry, Jim; Gardner, Mike; Melendrez, Andy; Soubirous, Mike; Conder, Chuck; MacArthur, Chris; Bailey, Rusty; Russo, John A.; Nguyen, Alexander; Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: [External] Housing First

Steve--Thank you very much for your participation in the Workshop for Housing Solutions at the La Sierra Community Center today. Your supportive comments were lucid and well-received, especially the clarification that in order to remain in housing, the behavior of the homeless people must comply with program requirements. It is not just shelter, but also participation in programs that will change lives. I am certain those in the audience appreciated your being there, and your commitment to them and their neighborhoods that Housing First will only succeed with an appropriate level of supervision, intervention and support for individuals and families who want to change their circumstances. Thanks again!--Dwight

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2018 1:24 PM
To: McLaughlin, Jeffery; Davis, Michelle
Subject: Fwd: [External] Input and help for the Riverbed Homeless.
Attachments: Image.png

Thank you,
Emilio
Office of Homeless Solutions

Hasta la victoria, siempre

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Ramirez, Emilio" <ERamirez@riversideca.gov>
Date: Sat, Feb 10, 2018 at 1:23 PM -0800
Subject: Re: [External] Input and help for the Riverbed Homeless.
To: "Debora Mickelson" <debmickelson@outlook.com>
Cc: "Debora Mickelson" <deborajean@theumbrellaeffect.org>

God bless you. Thank you for your comments.

Thank you,
Emilio
Office of Homeless Solutions

Hasta la victoria, siempre

On Sat, Feb 10, 2018 at 2:15 AM -0800, "Debora Mickelson" <debmickelson@outlook.com> wrote:



Hello,

My name is Debora Mickelson.

I just read some information regarding input needed in the plan to help the homeless. I love the idea of housing first then dealing with the underlying cause\

s. I have been praying for a year for those living In the riverbottom near downtown.

I visit them twice a week and take them

needed items to deal with living in the

outdoor elements. Over the past year, I have come to not only care for them but love them.

As you know the suffering is tremendous.

I have watched some of them deteriorate health wise

and even had one gentleman pass away due to illness.

I have been telling some of the of a program called Home Connect.
I know there are shelters but I understand shelters are
not condusive to some folks with pets and some with mental health issues.
I just want to ask you to help these folks with housing. They are suffering.
They need out of that Riverbottom and a safe and warm place to call
home.

A remedy could also be one room tiny homes.

Set up like a campground or rest stop. With Men and women's bathrooms and
Shower areas. A paid staff / site staff person/s to be the overseer of saftey rules, grounds, Restroom/ shower
area, etc.

Thank you for your time and for what you are doing to help those that sometimes feel forgotten, uncared for
or that they are a burden to society.

PSHplancomment

From: Kyle Sweeney <ksweeney42@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 10:18 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] H1 plan comment

I have looked at the housing first plan and completely support it. I am extremely happy to see the city using evidence based and humane methods to aid some of our cities most vulnerable people. I very much hope this program will help support those who are non-gender confirming to express their identities and combat dysphoria as part of the mental help services provided. Too often these individuals are left behind or harmed by programs meant to aid the homeless.

-Kyle Sweeney
Ward 2

PSHplancomment

From: JAMES WRIGHT <lonewolfjw33@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:43 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Fw: H1plan meeting 2/12/18

On Monday, February 5, 2018 8:17 AM, JAMES WRIGHT <lonewolfjw33@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Mike; In speaking to my neighbors about the ward 3, site 3. Nogales street proposal, we are against it. and ask you to represent your constituents on this matter. My next door neighbors Veronica and Alfredo Have voiced there concerns in the press enterprise piece the forgotten street. Veronica is a supervisor for the Salvation Army, and deals with the homeless on a daily basis. Alfredo is a volunteer cook at the group homes and halfway houses in the area. They feel there are to many homeless people hanging out, and sleeping in the neighborhood . I am retired from the probation department, and think we are saturated with with group homes, and homeless people in the neighborhood. Please check for compliance in this matter. Izaac Rodarte, Is a Riverside county Sheriff. He is very concerned with the safety of the neighborhood, To many homeless and group home people hanging out on Nogales street. Kimberly Cardenas; county mental health worker is very disappointed and concerned with the loitering of homeless and overnight campers on Nogales street. In reading the Fair housing act about the houses proposed on Nogales street I see problems that we already have. Comply with governing documents. Traffic, Parking, sitting out in the front yard, noise. We have a parking problem with the site three ward three proposal. This has been reported to code compliance case # 16-05191. There are no parking spots during the week at said site proposal. You are welcome to read this at the meeting on 2/12/18. I will try to be at the meeting 2/10/18 9am on Dewey street. James Wright

PSHplancomment

From: John Walker <john8k524@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:06 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing first

I just want to go on record as being 100% opposed to the moronic idea of housing first. Who thought it is a good idea of starting at the finish line. You don't give away the prize and then do the test.

John walker

Sent from my iPad

PSHplancomment

From: M DAMIANO <minkywan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:37 PM
To: MacArthur, Chris; PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing Units for the Homeless proposal at Indiana & Vallejo

Councilman Mac Arthur,

As a homeowner on Neptune Drive for the last 35 years, I want you to know that I am vehemently opposed to the proposed Housing First units for the homeless project being considered at Indiana & Vallejo, and I'm happy to tell you why I feel this way. My reasons - not listed in order of importance - include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. This will not solve the problems being created by the current homeless population in our immediate area. These problems range from breaking into our homes & vehicles to steal items that they can turn into quick cash (to further their drug use) to attacking our neighbors with the intent to rob them, or simply because the attackers are in "altered states".
2. In reaching out to provide food, blankets, gloves, etc to many homeless individuals over the years, I have come to learn - directly from them - that the majority of them (though not all*, to be sure) have made a 'lifestyle' choice that allows them to live by their terms, without having to abide by rules set forth by others.
3. According to the seventh bulleted point under CORE COMPONENTS OF HOUSING FIRST UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW on the CSH HOUSING FIRST document, "The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction". Are you freaking kidding me, we're just supposed to support & encourage drug use?!!! Yeah, who wouldn't be on board with building a crack house in their neighborhood?
4. This proposal would, essentially, gather the many smaller pockets of homeless people currently spread far and wide throughout the city and create fewer, but much larger, communities of the homeless, thereby subjecting those few "chosen" areas to more criminal activity, plummeted property values, and more danger for the families in the community.
5. An 'efficiency or one-bedroom unit' (as mentioned in the 4th line of the Summary: Housing First Strategy under Recommendations for Specific Sites would not be suitable for homeless families with children (not that families with children [vulnerable, helpless little people] should even *be* living in complexes that welcome-with-open-arms known criminals and active substance abusers).
6. As already touched on, the safety of our families will be at greater risk and our property values will definitely plummet.
7. "Participation in services or program compliance is not a condition of tenancy" (this is a quote from the fifth bulleted point of the document named in item 3 above). The fact that none of the tenants of the housing unit will have to ever make any attempts at getting their act together in order to be productive members of society is not okay by me.
8. If anyone thinks that a housing unit meant for 1 individual homeless person will not end up being home to several (or more) of their friends, they are surely kidding themselves.

If most of us are honest, we have people in our own families (or have friends &/or co-workers with family members) who *have* faced, or *are currently* faced with: substance abuse, criminal histories, mental health issues, or other sad and completely legitimate reasons for now dealing with homelessness. It is absolutely a tragic situation, but not one that I believe in my heart will be rectified by the forced implementation of the

Housing First model being directed by the federal government and the state of California. **Furthermore, we all know that none of our federal, state, or local officials (whether elected or appointed) would want this model in their front yards, so they have no right to force it into our front yards.**

Our neighborhood would be better served by building a nice restaurant or retail business(es) in the currently vacant lot (between the beautifully renovated bowling alley and the MetroLink station) at Indiana & Vallejo. Either of those would bring some much-needed jobs to our community and further enrich our neighborhood.

I will continue to reach out to other homeowners (and tenants at the new, costly MetroLink apartments), as well as businesses in the immediate area. Friends of mine in the gated housing community at the corner of La Sierra and Indiana are also spreading the word.

Please do right by your Ward 5 constituents and oppose this plan, with conviction.

Sincerely,

Mindy Damiano

*Please believe me when I say that I don't want to diminish the legitimacy relating to the nightmare of homelessness caused by loss of jobs (and, with that, sustainable income), veterans who are not able to secure jobs, staggeringly insurmountable medical bills that cause people to lose their homes, etc. While these are only a few of the situations that create homelessness for some individuals (as well as entire families), our area seems more plagued by the serious substance abusers (who openly shoot-up drugs), followed by individuals with mental health issues who have stopped taking their prescribed meds.

There is no "one-size-fits-all" answer to the problem, but the Housing First model wants to make you believe there is.

PSHplancomment

From: Mike Fischer <mfischer689@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:56 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Proposed homeless housing @ Indiana and Vallejo

As a longtime resident of this area, I think the proposal to build Housing First units on the vacant property at Indiana and Vallejo is contrary to the well being of the residents that already live here. I can watch homeless folks at the corner of Tyler and Indiana using drugs, including shooting up, every single day. The thought that we should offer the homeless living spaces to accomplish the same end is wrong. Having been approached one evening at my home on Neptune Drive by a homeless woman seeking a place to shoot up, the thought that the city will aid in the drug abuse lifestyle many of the homeless choose seems silly. Having read the Housing First literature, I can't support their stated absence of a requirement to stay drug free.

Michael Fischer
3273 Neptune Drive
Riverside, Ca. 92503

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

PSHplancomment

From: Dean Halwani <halwanid@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:51 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] 1253 PIERCE STREET riverside, ca (Properties for Potential PSH Development)

Re New Homeless Shelter Pierce/Riverwalk

On behalf of the homes of Tiburon and Riverwalk neighbors

We strongly object to the home/shelter in our community, our neighborhood have enough problems with plenty of homeless roaming our area, our residents together will work to STOP this plan with all legal means possible if it moves forward. Our homeowners are committed to working together on ill proposed and reckless plan. With no impact study conducted on our neighborhood or thinking that this area has schools, a university, seniors homes, very congested area with kids roam the area going schools, library, and shopping centers. Our concern is REAL for the safety of our kids, family, and Riverwalk - La Sierra area. 15 years ago this neighborhood was quite and peaceful, we disagree that our elected officials use our taxes to pursue such shelters in our neighborhood and will deteriorate the quality of our lives in this area of Riverside. We advise you to use resources in the right places, because our residents are determined to STOP the project. There are many open lands elsewhere in Riverside where this proposal will work better and less expensive to tax payers than these proposed shelters in a dense area rather in a more appropriate location that is acceptable by all.

PSHplancomment

From: john hickling <jc_hickling@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:49 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless

No homeless shelters in or near family neighborhoods!! I live in La Sierra and am deeply concerned and frustrated at this idea!!! Please do not put us law abiding, tax paying citizens in this dangerous predicament.

John Hickling

PSHplancomment

From: Mary Greenough <greenough.mary@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:50 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Indiana/Vallejo homeless housing

I am opposed to the homeless housing at this location. I feel that this is not the place this project should be at.

Mary Greenough

Sent from my iPhone

PSHplancomment

From: Wanjiru Muchiri <sokoyagardenhurst@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:23 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] 1253 PIERCE STREET riverside, CA (Properties for Potential PSH Development) New Homeless Shelter Pierce/Riverwalk

We strongly object to the home/shelter in our community, our neighborhood have enough problems with plenty of homeless roaming our area, our residents together will work to STOP this plan with all legal means possible if it moves forward. Our homeowners are committed to working together on ill proposed and reckless plan. With no impact study conducted on our neighborhood or thinking that this area has schools, a university, seniors homes, very congested area with kids roam the area going to schools, library, and shopping centers. Our concern is REAL for the safety of our kids, family, and Riverwalk - La Sierra area. 15 years ago this neighborhood was quite and peaceful, we disagree that our elected officials use our taxes to pursue such shelters in our neighborhood that will deteriorate the quality of our lives in this area of Riverside. We advise you to use resources in the right places, because our residents are determined to STOP the project. There are many open lands elsewhere in Riverside where this proposal will work better and less expensive to tax payers than these proposed shelters in a dense area rather in a more appropriate locations that are acceptable by all.

PSHplancomment

From: Laura Gonzalez <lggonz01@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 12:33 AM
To: MacArthur, Chris; PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless shelter proposal

I'm writing regarding the City Manager's Office of Homeless Solution proposal to build a homeless shelter at Vallejo and Indiana, the vacant lot between the bowling alley and the new high end apartments and throughout the Wards in Riverside. As a person who lives very closed to the proposal locations, I want to address my concerns.

1. Social stats shows homeless persons staying in shelters live with a serious to severe chronic mental illness, drugs and alcohol disorders. And a number of homeless are mental disorder offenders that have served time in prison, local jails or in a state mental hospital for criminal offenses, such as rape, child molestation, burglaries, sexual assaults and murders - just to name a few.

2. Vallejo and Indiana is a very peaceful area and very vulnerable place. The proposed shelter location is at a closed proximity to schools, playgrounds and shopping centers. Many residents are elder people that have lived here for many years. People are running and walking with their dogs on the blocks in the early morning, and evenings. The bowling alley and Castle Park that's nearby are great playgrounds for many families with kids that come here to have fun and they feel safe. Riverside-La Sierra Metrolink station is near by and many residents and young kids using La Sierra stop to get to work and schools will have to walk through the proposed location from their house to get to the train.

3. I believe the increased homeless activity the City Manager's Office of Homeless Solution will bring is a terrible idea. No matter how many homeless units the city build in these areas, these sites will attract more homeless people that can not get into and wander in the neighborhood areas, parks, schools and shopping centers.

Please lets not make our city like the city of Santa Ana, I'm sure you have heard and read, homeless having sex outside in public parking lots in bright daylight, littering areas with uncapped hypodermic needles, and endangering the public safety. And as a homeowner not only I'm concerned of loitering, safety, congestion but of a potential negative impact on home property values because of the shelter(s). Therefore, I'm requesting the City of Riverside not to consider this site and any other near by sites for a shelter as proposed.

Regards,

Laura Gonzalez

Sent from my iPhone

PSHplancomment

From: Tim Barnthouse <barnthouse4@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 8:27 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: MacArthur, Chris; 2Mayor; Davis, Michelle
Subject: [External] Housing First Plan Feedback

My spouse and I have been homeowners in Ward 5, on Neptune Drive in Riverside for the past 15 years. After reviewing the Housing First proposal regarding Homeless Solutions, I would strongly oppose placing these apartment units in our neighborhood, (Ward 5), at the proposed location of **Indiana and Vallejo**.

My spouse and I are trying to raise our two children to be productive, law abiding citizens, and strongly feel that having these units a block away from our residence would have a negative impact in our neighborhood. For example, our residential community would become less safe, as well as, less desirable to prospective future family oriented home buyers, making it difficult to sell our home.

Many government/city programs are broken and failing, we feel that this Housing First program would also become a problem and foresee more issues associated with this proposal, as it relates to our community. Placing these units near our residence, where individuals with substance abuse, sobriety issues and criminal convictions are welcome, should **NOT** be built near our single-family homes.

Mentally ill individuals with behavioral issues should be placed in a facility where they can be monitored, treated and rehabilitated before being placed in a residential community, funded ultimately by the taxpayers. We do not believe that these individuals will be monitored and held accountable for following their individual plan, (recovery, medication, education, job training, etc.) We feel that this would just create more problems in our neighborhood, and the response as usual would be "we don't have the resources to deal with it."

Therefore, my family does **NOT** want these housing units in our neighborhood at **Indiana and Vallejo**, as it will change the character of our local community for the worse.

Furthermore, if these units are placed a block away from our residence, we will no longer be supporting Mr. Chris MacArthur, Mayor Rusty Bailey, or any measure put on the ballot by our Mayor or City Council members.

Homeowner, Taxpayer and Registered Voters,
Mr. Tim and Amber Barnthouse

PSHplancomment

From: Kathleen Dunn <kkelpien@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 10:11 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless Shelters close to La Sierra Academy and La Sierra University

I wish to register my strong objection to building a homeless shelter across from La Sierra Elementary School and Academy. In fact, I am shocked that the city would even consider this. It is a most unsuitable site for so many reasons including the presence of drugs, drinking, harassment, and other unsavory activities. I do believe that the homeless should be housed, but not adjacent to schools.

Kathleen Dunn
11843 Tilden Place
Riverside, CA 92505
kkelpien@gmail.com
951-359-8429

PSHplancomment

From: Sugam Langer <sugamlanger@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 8:07 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Opposition of Housing units for Indiana and Vallejo

I would like express my vehement opposition against the creation of the city managers office of homeless solutions request for housing units to be built in the wards of riverside. This is an attempt to completely circumvent the amazing work the city has already been doing regarding the revitalization of the city of Riverside. In the past, Riverside has been known to be a city of poor people, with high crimes and an unsafe place to raise children. It is wonderful that builders like KB homes, Griffin and others are investing real money into this town and attempting to change its reputation for a place that really should be family friendly with an upscale desire.

To build a homeless wards through out the city, will circumvent ANY progress made and send people back to ontario, LA, orange county or newly amazing rancho to invest their money, time and community. This will be a MISTAKE for the future success of the city.

As a new home resident within the city, living on La Sierra ave, I was proud to be able to purchase a home for our family with easy access to the greater los angeles community, given the metro link. To create a homeless ward so close to the train will only AGAIN deter people from using mass transit as they do not feel safe. We need to grow our communities around transit, make them walking friendly and safe. Invite business and builders to invest their money in the land, just as any other city with a successful transit system has done. This proposal should absolutely not pass. It is unfair to all reputable tax payers attempting to update the reputation of our city, for the better.

Sugam Langer, Esq.

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Sugam Langer, Esq.

PSHplancomment

From: Charles McKinstry <Charles.McKinstry@seccsda.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 9:21 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comment on H1 draft

First I would like to say after reading the document I am pleased and wish to commend the city for all the work, creativity and effort that went into creating the document. My overall impression is very positive about the plan. I am pleased to see the, the coordination between city, state and federal governments. I agree with the Housing First principle. I am very glad to see the focus on this problem the city is making.

The homelessness problem has several major causes and I am pleased to see the plan recognizes that and addresses those causes. One fact I did not see addressed adequately is that the homeless are transient. Any successful attempts to "solve" the problem have to be done regionally it seems. Some of the causes of homelessness such as mental illness and addiction are not easy to solve. I serve on the board of a drug rehabilitation program headquartered in Grand Terrace. They have one of the highest success rates with treatment I have ever seen. Their in-house treatment program is 18 months. The success rate is surprisingly high. We get clients that have been through multiple rehab programs before. My point is that drug addiction is extremely difficult to break.

Probably the "easiest" homeless population to serve is the economic category. Providing funding is simple compared with trying to break and addiction.

As you can see from my signature line, I work for the regional headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I hope that our local churches in Riverside will be supportive of the city's efforts. Let me know if I can be of assistance.

On a less serious note, you need to include a glossary for all the acronyms in the report. For the citizen-reader it gets quite confusing in a hurry trying to keep track of who they are.

cm
Charles McKinstry
Director of Property
Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
11330 Pierce Street
P.O. Box 79990
Riverside, CA 92513
(951) 509-2221

PSHplancomment

From: Paul Knopf <mathetes@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 9:26 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Appreciative and hopeful

As a new resident to Riverside (<1 year), I am proud and thankful of the city's efforts to positively affect the unsheltered population within our city and am a fan of the housing first model.

As a resident of Ward 4 (my home is near the corner of Cole Ave. and Kinnow Lane) I was excited to see a potential site near my home. I was disappointed to learn that this site did not meet all of the criteria hoped for in a potential site because I would gladly welcome a multi-unit, permanent supportive housing development at the 18860 Van Buren Blvd. location (Ward 4, Site 1, APN 280-270-024). I drive by this empty lot daily and have observed unsheltered individuals already using this space (despite the barbed wire fence). I could easily imagine a multi-unit dwelling replacing this empty lot, which would add value to our community while also positively affecting the unsheltered population in our city. As one who lives near this potential site, I gladly invite the city to strongly consider this site for inclusion in the final plan.

I am grateful for the city's work and hope that the housing first plan would be adopted, including this Ward 4 site.

With hope,
Paul Knopf
Riverside Resident

PSHplancomment

From: deswift52 <deswift52@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 3:56 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: David Swift
Subject: [External] Apartment complex for the homeless at Indiana and Vallejo Street

My wife and I are adamantly opposed to any development regarding homeless Apartments near Indiana and Vallejo. We live on Vallejo Street and have had lots of problems with homeless criminals. I have written numerous letters to our Councilman Chris MacArthur and have also involved the police on numerous occasions. Regarding this particular development, I sent an email to councilman MacArthur stating my opposition to this development. He acknowledged my email stating that such a development would not be compatible to our area given the new high end Luxury Apartments, the Bowlero bowling alley, Riverwalk Vista development and being next to the Freeway and Railroad Tracks.

Sincerely,
Mr & Mrs David E Swift

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

PSHplancomment

From: Denise Booker <dbooker@teamsters1932.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 5:00 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing first

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns it is appreciated.

Overall the programs sounds great if we were trying to assist the many residents who struggle to live in Riverside. If the targeted audience were hard working law abiding citizens who simply are employed by the lower paying establishments, Love Riverside but struggle to live here I would be your loudest cheer leader. The targeted demographic (homeless, mentally unstable, drug dependent) and don't get me wrong I understand you will have all the necessary services in place to assist those who wasn't help but we have one huge problem the majority of these people don't want the help. The services are already available. Listen when you take someone who doesn't want to change bad behavior and you make them more comfortable, then apply no expectation of change, all you have done enabled them to continue the behavior on a larger scale. This is not the right program to solve the homeless issue.

Thank you for your time.

Mrs. D. Booker

PSHplancomment

From: JOHN BYRNE <j0h22y6y42e@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 5:01 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless Housing

I am commenting because I feel the field South of Ralph's is not a suitable location for the Homeless Housing. I am a homeowner and a homeless facility is sure to drastically reduce property values and the impinge safety of the residents in the local community. I live directly behind Ralph's. What makes the South field such a great choice? Surely there are other more suitable locations. I was not happy with the new apartments that went up on Indiana that will increase the population in this area by two thousand people. They will increase congestion everywhere. I am completely against the Homeless Center going up in the field South of Ralph's.

John Byrne
3277 Norfolk Drive
Riverside, CA 92503
951-897-6415

PSHplancomment

From: Wes Borck <wesborck@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 9:10 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: MacArthur, Chris
Subject: [External] H1 Plan

To the H1 Plan and Councilman, Chris Mac Arthur,

After reviewing the proposed H1 Plan for homeless housing development. Location Indiana/Vallejo, Ward 5, **I reject and do not agree or support this plan.** My family and I live in the Riverwalk Vista community HOA, across from planned location. I see nothing that looks good for myself, family, neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods.

Here are some questions for you

- * Will it be ok that your Property and neighborhood values to plummet. Property and neighborhood Value will plummet and property taxes will be increased.
- * Will you be willing to risk the safety of families.
- * Will such housing be built in the "more affluent" areas of riversides?

With the H1 Plan, Crime will rise in the area, property values will plummet, current home owners will not be able to sell. Neighborhoods will begin to a downward spiral.

Please for the safety of my family and all the families in this area , do not continue with this housing plan. Located in Ward 5 at Indiana/Vallejo. It is not fair for the home owners in this area to have such housing.

Sent from my iPad

PSHplancomment

From: Wes Borck <wesborck@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 9:11 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: MacArthur, Chris
Subject: [External] H1 Plan

To the H1 Plan and Councilman, Chris Mac Arthur,

After reviewing the proposed H1 Plan for homeless housing development. Location Indiana/Vallejo, Ward 5, **I reject and do not agree or support this plan.** My family and I live in the Riverwalk Vista community HOA, across from planned location. I see nothing that looks good for myself, family, neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods.

Here are some questions for you

- * Will it be ok that your Property and neighborhood values plummet. Property and neighborhood Value will plummet and property taxes will be increased.
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Please for the safety of my family and all the families in this area , do not continue with this housing plan. Located in Ward 5 at Indiana/Vallejo. It is not fair for the home owners in this area to have such housing.

Sent from my iPad

PSHplancomment

From: ryan campos <goldiecoolguy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 10:12 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: MacArthur, Chris
Subject: [External] Planned Homesite for Homeless Population Indiana and Vallejo

I am writing as a concerned homeowner located in the Riverwalk Vista Community at Indiana and La Sierra. We as a community have seen first hand what the homeless population does on a first hand basis. They have vandalized our homes and common areas, leaving behind discarded drugs and paraphernalia for the children of the community to have access to. They have accosted our children when they walk home from school. Now you want to build a mecca for the homeless population right next to the luxury apartments? Absurd. Why not build a homeless housing units in the overlook area? Or Orangecrest/Woodcrest? Would those homeowners be alright with their homes losing value as ours would? Who will take responsibility for the actions that they will cause as a direct harm? Will there be a police substation in the units manned 24/7? Why not put the population in more desolate areas of Riverside county such as Perris, Homeland, Lake Elsinore or Moreno Valley?

Please reconsider this area as many families would be gravely impacted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ryan Campos
3359 Pilsner Drive
Riverside, Ca 92503

PSHplancomment

From: myra jimenez <missmayraj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 1:31 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: MacArthur, Chris
Subject: [External] Ward 5/housing units for the homeless

To whom it may concern,

We as a family and all our surrounding neighbors oppose the building of housing units at Indiana & Vallejo. Building such units would bring down our property values and for the safety of our children and homes. These units should be built in areas like Perris, San Bernardino or areas in Riverside that are remote and away from schools or neighborhoods that can be affected in property value or for the safety of children. We understand that these people are going to need time to get their lives together and for that reason we do not want housing units for the homeless in this ward 5. Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

PSHplancomment

From: John Walker <john8k524@me.com>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 2:29 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing first

Please tell me why it is a good idea to start at the finish line and then have to justify the trip. How do you identify people? I was told that illegal aliens were not eligible so how do you know. It is my personal experience that they have multiple identities.

John Walker
Sent from my iPad

From: Perry, Jim
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 2:55 PM
To: smateja@earthlink.net
Cc: Medina, Diana; Ramirez, Emilio; Nguyen, Alexander; Davis, Michelle; Adams, Steven; Garcia, Sandy
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Housing First

The extension took place within the past 24 hours and Emilio and his department will take care of the meeting (date, time and location).

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2018, at 1:46 PM, "smateja@earthlink.net" <smateja@earthlink.net> wrote:

Jim Thank you for taking the time to share this information; unfortunately I did not receive this flyer. To my knowledge no one at RRR last night was aware of the Housing First meeting being rescheduled to December 18th; if they were, they did not speak up when Sharon Dodgson made her presentation and others commented on the Housing First meeting hosted by you and Steve Adams as being cancelled.

Housing first is an important meeting; I was only aware of the meeting at Calvary Church from another resident who also called me when it was cancelled. Even though I am on your email list, I do not get many/most/any of the mass mailed notices; I do receive those that are sent to me as an individual.

I am thankful to Emilio for offering to do a presentation on Housing First for those in the westend who did not hear it. I will work very hard to get the information out on this meeting.

You said that the public comment period is being extended to the middle of February; may I ask when this extension was made as I was just advised yesterday of the January 25th deadline for public comment? If that is true, I would not have to plan a last minute presentation with Emilio and it would allow time to notify residents and to secure a venue.

Sharon

-----Original Message-----

From: "Perry, Jim"
Sent: Jan 9, 2018 11:05 AM
To: "smateja@earthlink.net"
Cc: "Medina, Diana" , "Ramirez, Emilio" , "Nguyen, Alexander" , "Davis, Michelle" , "Adams, Steven" , "Garcia, Sandy"
Subject: Housing First

Sharon,

The Housing First meeting scheduled for November was postponed. It was rescheduled and took place on 12/18/17 at Home Front at Camp Anza. Refer to the attached newsletters for details. At the La Sierra/Collett community meeting which took place on 12/7/17, I made an announcement regarding the Housing First meeting. Afterwards, a couple of residents confirmed with me the date and time for this meeting.

The public comment period for Housing First is being extended to the middle of February. The Office of Homeless Services will make a few more community presentations. One of those will take place in either Ward 6 or 7. This should happen within the next 4 weeks. They are in the process of scheduling, planning and coordinating this meeting. This will provide residents with another opportunity to hear their presentation, ask questions and submit their comments.

Jim Perry

City of Riverside,
Council Member Ward 6

From: Sharon Mateja <smateja@earthlink.net>

Date: January 9, 2018 at 6:41:13 AM PST

To: "Ramirez, Emilio" <ERamirez@riversideca.gov>, "Thomas, Shaleah" <ShThomas@riversideca.gov>

Cc: "Nguyen, Alexander" <ANguyen@riversideca.gov>, "Davis, Michelle" <MDAVIS@riversideca.gov>, "McLaughlin, Jeffery" <JMcLaughlin@riversideca.gov>, "Medina, Diana" <DMedina@riversideca.gov>

Subject: RE: [External] Housing first

Thank you Emilio,

Last night RRR met and a resident who had attended last Saturday's meeting recapped what she had heard. She did put in the disclaimer that she was sharing her interpretations of what she heard. People did not like the concept but unfortunately she could not answer the questions that only your office could.

Housing First presentation had been scheduled by both Jim Perry and Steve Adams and was cancelled last minute and no new meeting was ever scheduled. Residents are unhappy that we had no meeting/presentation on the westend. We don't have much time to put this together; I did not ask last night if people wanted a meeting as I didn't hear back from you yesterday following the email that staff would no longer speak at RRR. I am now confused. Will we be able to have staff address issues for westend residents?

There is very little time, if I can be given a few dates to work with, I will secure a venue (last minute is not easy and the senior center charged me almost \$100 the last time I had a community meeting there). The police department is usually booked well ahead of time....but, I will work my hardest to make this happen. However, I do need a few dates with which to work if I have any chance of setting this up prior to the deadline of January 25, 2018, and with enough time following the meeting for residents to respond.

Thank you for following up on this.

Sharon

PSHplancomment

From: masoudroueintan@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 8:35 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: MacArthur, Chris; tinkafriend@sbcglobal.net
Subject: [External] H1hiusingplan

To Whom it May Concern,

I couldn't be any more disappointed than reading an extremely unintelligent proposal by Riverside Mayor as well as our councilpersons to resolve homelessness issue in our city. This is not the way homelessness will be fixed! If you are clueless as how to remedy this problem, please do all Riverside residents a favor and quit early. Furthermore, this plan is being advertised to be an excellent plan according to the city website, Today, we are proposing a proactive and targeted homeless plan that will benefit residents, businesses, and neighbors who need assistance to lead healthy and productive lives," Mayor Rusty Bailey said. "This Housing First Plan will enable us to assist a greater number of our homeless neighbors."???

My question is why to take such a great opportunity away from our city mayor, councilmen, and CA governor and not build these H1 housing projects near Their residences and lands as a perfect location?

Best regards,
Masoud Roueintan

Sent from my iPhone

From: Perry, Jim
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 8:49 AM
To: Medina, Diana
Cc: Ramirez, Emilio; Nguyen, Alexander
Subject: Re: [External] Housing first

I will respond to this email later this morning.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2018, at 8:34 AM, Medina, Diana <DMedina@riversideca.gov> wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sharon Mateja <smateja@earthlink.net>
Date: January 9, 2018 at 6:41:13 AM PST
To: "Ramirez, Emilio" <ERamirez@riversideca.gov>, "Thomas, Shaleah" <ShThomas@riversideca.gov>
Cc: "Nguyen, Alexander" <ANguyen@riversideca.gov>, "Davis, Michelle" <MDAVIS@riversideca.gov>, "McLaughlin, Jeffery" <JMcLaughlin@riversideca.gov>, "Medina, Diana" <DMedina@riversideca.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] Housing first

Thank you Emilio,

Last night RRR met and a resident who had attended last Saturday's meeting recapped what she had heard. She did put in the disclaimer that she was sharing her interpretations of what she heard. People did not like the concept but unfortunately she could not answer the questions that only your office could.

Housing First presentation had been scheduled by both Jim Perry and Steve Adams and was cancelled last minute and no new meeting was ever scheduled. Residents are unhappy that we had no meeting/presentation on the westend. We don't have much time to put this together; I did not ask last night if people wanted a meeting as I didn't hear back from you yesterday following the email that staff would no longer speak at RRR. I am now confused. Will we be able to have staff address issues for westend residents?

There is very little time, if I can be given a few dates to work with, I will secure a venue (last minute is not easy and the senior center charged me almost \$100 the last time I had a community meeting there). The police department is usually booked well ahead of time....but, I will work my hardest to make this happen. However, I do need a few dates with which to work if I have any chance of setting this up prior to the deadline of January 25, 2018, and with enough time following the meeting for residents to respond.

Thank you for following up on this.

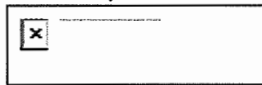
Sharon

From: Ramirez, Emilio [<mailto:ERamirez@riversideca.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 08, 2018 2:00 PM
To: smateja@earthlink.net; Thomas, Shaleah
Cc: Nguyen, Alexander; Davis, Michelle; McLaughlin, Jeffery; Medina, Diana
Subject: RE: [External] Housing first

Shaleah,

Please see below. This is request for a Housing First meeting to present the plan. Please work with Sharon Mateja to schedule a meeting. Please make sure to invite Alex, Michelle, Jeff, Consultants and Councilman's office.

Thank You.



Office of Homeless Solutions

From: smateja@earthlink.net [<mailto:smateja@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 12:47 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: RE: [External] Housing first

Thank you Emilio, can you give me several days that you might be available to make this presentation to the westside? Sharon

I have told several people of your offer and they want to hear it...I need to guarantee a good audience for you to make your time valuable.

-----Original Message-----

From: "Ramirez, Emilio"
Sent: Jan 8, 2018 10:34 AM
To: "smateja@earthlink.net"
Cc: "Nguyen, Alexander"
Subject: RE: [External] Housing first

Sharon,

The document public comment period ends on January 25th. This gives us time to respond to the comments and amend the draft plan such that then we can make sure it presented to the City Council on the agenda on February 27th.

Thank You.



Office of Homeless Solutions

From: smateja@earthlink.net [mailto:smateja@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: Re: [External] Housing first

Good morning,

I am looking at emails backwards...are you saying that the council is meeting on Thursday Jan. 25, 2018 to hear comments, then will vote on it Feb 27th? If so, where will the Thursday meeting be held; or are the comments to be directed with email and phone calls prior to the 25th?

Sharon

Sorry, but I don't understand this. Does comment period simply mean the date that the last comment from residents can be directed to council for consideration on a matter requiring a vote? What if comments come in after the 25th; will they be considered or ignored?

-----Original Message-----

From: "Ramirez, Emilio"
Sent: Jan 8, 2018 7:30 AM
To: Sharon Mateja
Cc: "Dr. Mateja"
Subject: Re: [External] Housing first

No. I said that the comment period ends on January 25. Council considers in February 27.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

On Sun, Jan 7, 2018 at 10:49 PM -0800, "Sharon Mateja"
<smateja@earthlink.net> wrote:

Emilio,

You said CC votes on this on January 25th which is a Thursday, is that correct? Where? Open meeting?

Sharon

<image001.png>

PSHplancomment

From: Big D <thefewagainstmany@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 9:38 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Indiana & Vallejo Housing First Proposal

I'm writing to you today to voice my opinion on why I am AGAINST the proposal of developing homeless housing at Indiana & Vallejo in Ward 5. I have been a resident in Ward 5 for 30 years, of which 10 of those years I have had constant contact and interactions with the homeless in the area from my previous job. From my discussions with them, being homeless is a lifestyle that they chose. They have told me first hand they enjoy the freedoms of being homeless, of not having responsibilities, of being able to travel where ever they want, get free food and donated clothes from panhandling, or stealing, and the readily availability of the drugs of their choice. There has been a small gathering/camp of homeless building up not far from this location being considered, and these homeless have been rummaging through my neighborhood, in fact, a neighbor of mine was assaulted in his own garage by two of the homeless, who were both on illicit substances, as they tried to steal from him.

Reading through the proposal, it is stated that drug and alcohol abuse will NOT be grounds for eviction in these housing accommodations, and none of the proposed homeless tenants will be required to participate in any sort of addiction programs.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

PSHplancomment

From: Jake Allen Salvosa <jake_salvosa@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2018 4:30 PM
To: PSHplancomment; MacArthur, Chris
Subject: [External] Housing Units for the homeless at Indiana & Vallejo

I'm writing with regards to the above-mentioned subject. I'm concerned that it might affect the value of our property. There are other places that can be considered to do this project. Likewise, I'm very much concerned for the safety of my family. While I'm glad you have good plans for the homeless and less fortunate people in the community, it is not fair to the good tax paying citizens of our community to suffer the consequences of having this homeless solution and cause our property values to plummet and imperil the safety of my family.

I'm sure you can find a better place for these homeless families within the vicinity of Riverside County.

Sincerely yours,

Jake Salvosa
3332 Calle La Paz,
Riverside, CA 92503
951-8161127

PSHplancomment

From: anna C <anna.clifton89@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 12:39 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: MacArthur, Chris
Subject: [External] Low income housing units for the homeless

I live in the Riverwalk Vista community and by allowing these units to be built you are subjecting my family as well and my hard working neighbors to be living in danger. These homeless people in this area of La Sierra and Indiana have no regards to private property. They invade our private community by using our pool facilities. They have broken into our homes and even while someone was home and they have broken into our cars. My husband caught a homeless person one morning in his truck rummaging around. Many of my neighbors have small children and I have my elderly mother who lives with me. I don't want her to feel scared with these homeless people living right behind us. They are rude, dirty and have no regard or respect for others. Why would you put hard working, tax paying people in danger? I live in this community and I work at the local hospital as a nurse. I pay a lot of money to live in a nice home and in a clean and safe community. Please do not put these Projects in our area.

Thank You
Anna Clifton

PSHplancomment

From: SCOTT ROBEL <scott.robela@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 11:50 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Planned housing for homeless 5th ward , INDIANA/ VALLEJO . As a concerned homeowner in this area , i oppose any and all homeless housing in this area . It will bring more crime into this area , and lower housing values , IS ROBEL

PSHplancomment

From: Alicia Medina <aliciamedinae@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 12:22 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] H1 Comments

Hi,

I think this proposal is great and I think is amazing that you are providing a way to help this specific community. I think that the people opposed to this plan are not taking into consideration that this will help our community in a grand scheme. I am interested in future workshops to support this plan.

Best,

Alicia Medina

PSHplancomment

From: Tania Villarreal <tania.villarreal93@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 3:55 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External]

DO NOT BUILD THIS SHELTER!! IT WILL DECREASE PROPERTY VALUE, WE WILL STOP SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS AND OUR COMMUNITY, WE WILL CALL AND PROTEST 24/7!!

PSHplancomment

From: Tania Villarreal <vania.villarreal93@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 3:57 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External]

DO NOT BUILD THESE HOMELESS SHELTERS!! WE WILL STOP SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS, WE WILL CALL AND PROTEST 24/7, IT WILL DECREASE PROPERTY VALUE!!!!

PSHplancomment

From: Annie Le <Annie.Le@medsch.ucr.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 9:51 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Support for the Housing First plans in consideration in Riverside

To whom it may concern,

My name is Annie Le and I am a 3rd year medical student at UC Riverside School of Medicine. **I am writing to share my enthusiastic support for the Housing First plans in consideration in Riverside.**

I volunteer at our school's free clinics and health fairs, and rotate at the Riverside University Health System-Medical Center. Many of our patients are homeless, and I see how their situation exacerbates vulnerability in physical and mental health. Having unreliable housing and living on the streets often preclude prevention and treatment of health problems like cardiovascular, respiratory, and renal disease, diabetes, infection, chronic pain, psychiatric concerns like PTSD, anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and substance use disorder. Effective, ongoing treatment often depends on having safe places to store medications and keep medical records in order, not to mention having income to consistently afford care and medications.

I support the Housing First plan and its core components under California Law. It is an endeavor worthy of investment and careful programmatic planning and delivery. It is based on evidence demonstrating better outcomes for residents compared to other housing models and lower costs overall. It is also, importantly, based in a valuing of all life and health for everyone. As plans move forward, I urge policymakers to always consider whether plans are in the best interest of and primarily benefit those most marginalized in our communities - to put justice at the center of this work. In particular, I share my support for creating solutions to the intersection of homelessness and psychiatric conditions as well as substance use through social and health service provision, not criminalization and policing.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Annie Le, MPH

MD Candidate, Class of 2019 | *UC Riverside School of Medicine*

PSHplancomment

From: lynette.heatley@gmail.com on behalf of Lynn Heatley <lynn@thrivingcities.org>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 8:32 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Feedback on Housing First Plan

Dear City Staff,

First of all, I would like to thank the City for creating the Office of Homeless Solutions to better coordinate all the various aspects that are needed with this complex issue. I believe this was a vital first step.

I attended a recent workshop (thank you Emilio, Alex and Michelle) that explained the various parts of the plan and wanted to give my feedback.

1. I am in support of the Housing First plan.
2. I also see the need for transitional housing as an in-between step of moving from shelters to permanent housing as I believe it will take quite awhile to implement the Housing First plan. Someone shared at the meeting the idea of a large transitional type of building/s that could be built to provide shelter (small rooms within the building) until permanent housing could be obtained. I believe this is a good idea for the in-between time that will be needed. The wrap around services and accountable practices would also need to be in place at the Transitional housing structure/s as was discussed for the Housing First plan.
3. I also think the Council needs to look at and approve ways that could help families and friends provide housing for those that are presently homeless without it being a tedious process that would take years to approve. Room additions, granny flats, RVs, tiny houses, etc. And not penalize owners of houses that are adapting rooms to accommodate more people but still enforcing safety and noise regulations so houses are not becoming mini party dorms. I think of this in light of the need for affordable rents for those whose income can only afford renting a room instead of an apartment. This would help prevent the homeless population growing, which is also part of the discussion. Expanding our Affordable housing in Riverside is a must and needs to be addressed in our city alongside exploring various options for housing of the homeless.

Thank you for all the time that you are investing in looking at good and also realistic solutions. I appreciate all of your efforts.

Sincerely,
Lynn Heatley
Ward 3
Riverside CA

.....
Lynn Heatley
L♥ve Riverside

lynn@thrivingcities.org

lynette.heatley@gmail.com

www.loveriverside.org

Annual Serve Day-October 13, 2018

PSHplancomment

From: Melissa Poole <poolecmk@att.net>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 8:08 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing units Vallejo/Indiana

Good Morning,

We are sending this email in response to the planned homeless housing units on Vallejo and Indiana. We are asking that you please reconsider this location due to the fact that we are all family communities here that have young children. We all want our children to be safe, and bringing in homeless people who do drugs and other dangerous things are a danger to our children. We already have homeless people who live around here and they are constantly breaking into our cars, and even our homes. Our children won't be safe to walk to or from school.

Thank you for your time.

Melissa and Craig Poole

Sent from my iPhone

PSHplancomment

From: Mia Montoya <Mia.Montoya@medsch.ucr.edu>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 10:10 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

I fully support the development and implementation of the Housing First – Permanent Supportive Housing model in the city of Riverside. From a medical perspective, individuals experiencing homelessness need to find stable housing to help them successfully manage chronic health conditions and diseases, such as alcoholism, HIV, diabetes, and hypertension. In the long run, permanent supportive housing will reduce the cost of medical care for these individuals. I believe that by implementing this housing plan, Riverside is moving towards a safer and better future for everyone.

Sincerely,

Mia Montoya
MD Candidate | Class of 2020
UCR School of Medicine

PSHplancomment

From: Justin DeWaele <jdewaele2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 5:44 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Comment on Housing First Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Justin DeWaele and I am a Ward 2 resident and voter in the City of Riverside. I absolutely support the construction of new Permanent Supportive Housing in our City. Our region and our state has a major homelessness crisis on our hands and we need to take bold steps to deal with it. I think it is important to construct PSH in each ward of the city so no one feels an undue burden to house the homeless in their particular portion of the city. Thank you for your leadership on this issue and keep up the great work.

Sincerely,
Justin DeWaele

--
Justin DeWaele
Field Representative
Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes (AD 60)

PSHplancomment

From: Jimmy <jimmy.d.cao@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 5:16 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: MacArthur, Chris; b.moua@outlook.com
Subject: [External] Housing Unit for the Homeless at Indiana & Vallejo

To whom it may concern:

We are residents of Riverside County and currently live in the housing community of Riverwalk Vista off of La Sierra and Indiana.

We find it unacceptable for the proposition of building Housing Units for the Homeless on Indiana & Vallejo.

We fear for our family & neighbor's safety as well as our property values declining if this Housing Unit is placed here.

We ask that you hear us out and find a new location for this Housing Unit.

Sincerely,

Jimmy & Bong

PSHplancomment

From: richard ramirez <cocacoladrinkers@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 4:36 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless Apartments to built on Indiana

We have just found out that the city wants to build a Homeless Apartments on Indiana between Tyler and La Sierra and just had to give our feedback, It's completely Ridiculous, After the addition of the award winning Apartments, The Bowling alley with New Paint ,looking good, With the Gated Community across the street ,The Metro station Revitalized ,Now some Bone Head comes up with an Apartment for the Homeless right smack in the Middle, Totally against this idiotic idea ,I would say put it close to your home, and see what your neighbor say, I'm sorry but yes they do need a place to go ,in an Apartment or Hotel but this is definitely not the area, I Hope that you all on your committee thinks about what we are saying to you and that you don't pass or sneak any thing behind the people's back ,We the people of Ward 5

PSHplancomment

From: Nike Fanu <nikefanu@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 10:15 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homelessness solutions

I am in support of the draft plan of the homelessness solution. The current plan's goal of creating affordable housing paired with supportive services are a good start to dealing with the homelessness problem instead of just ignoring it and hoping it would go away on its own.

McLaughlin, Jeffery

From: Ramirez, Emilio
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 12:07 PM
To: tony gesualdo; McLaughlin, Jeffery
Subject: RE: [External] our meeting on the 31st.

Jeff

Please see below. Please add to the public comments and the response list. Please keep the email address for Mr. Gesualdo so we can email him a response when ready.

Thank You.

EMILIO

Office of Homeless Solutions

From: tony gesualdo [mailto:tagesualdo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 5:18 PM
To: Ramirez, Emilio
Subject: [External] our meeting on the 31st.

Hello, Mr. Ramirez,

I am writing you to thank you for taking the time to meet with me on the 31st.

I do like the idea of changing the approach on the homeless problem here in Riverside, and that you see that the shelter system here doesn't work, and to fix the homeless problem is to provide home for them.. I do have some question on it though.

Frist is, how does the homeless go and get into the housing frist?? and when is this all going to go into place???

Second one is, what is homeless solutions doing for the LBGT community???. I seen a lot of nothing done to the LBGT community other then out them to the public, or just turn there back on them and provide nothing other then saying you have to be 5 blocks away from the building or just call the cops for transpassing...

As for the shelter, I am glad you are allowing to let it be ran by a public corp. let them get hung by their own rope, lol.. just have the city remove the Riverside Community Shelter off the side of the building...

Last point of business, Councilman Soubirous wrote a memordum (10-3-17 CC RPT 16) to form a commission on homelessness, I wrote him stating I wanted to be on his commission, and stated why, I never got a reply from him. I want to help Riverside fix this problem, and since I was homeless here, who would give you the better propective then a person that was homeless to give solutions to the problem and not tell it to move along...

So once again thanks for your time and if you want to contact me my cell number is 951-410-2800

Sincerely,

Tony Gesualdo

PSHplancomment

From: Veronica Scott <Veronica.Scott@medsch.ucr.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 1:23 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing first plan in Riverside

To whom it may concern,

My name is Veronica Scott and I am a 3rd year medical student at UC Riverside School of Medicine. I am writing to share my enthusiastic support for the Housing First plans in consideration in Riverside.

I volunteer at our school's free clinics and health fairs, and rotate at the Riverside University Health System-Medical Center. Many of our patients are homeless, and I see how their situation exacerbates vulnerability in physical and mental health. Having unreliable housing and living on the streets often preclude prevention and treatment of health problems like cardiovascular, respiratory, and renal disease, diabetes, infection, chronic pain, psychiatric concerns like PTSD, anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and substance use disorder. Effective, ongoing treatment often depends on having safe places to store medications and keep medical records in order, not to mention having income to consistently afford care and medications.

I support the Housing First plan and its core components under California Law. It is an endeavor worthy of investment and careful programmatic planning and delivery. It is based on evidence demonstrating better outcomes for residents compared to other housing models and lower costs overall. It is also, importantly, based in a valuing of all life and health for everyone. As plans move forward, I urge policymakers to always consider whether plans are in the best interest of and primarily benefit those most marginalized in our communities - to put justice at the center of this work. In particular, I share my support for creating solutions to the intersection of homelessness and psychiatric conditions as well as substance use through social and health service provision, not criminalization and policing.

Thank you for your time!

PSHplancomment

From: Bob Bauman <dadiobob@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 2:30 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Objection to Proposed Site - Pierce Street

Good afternoon,

I have recently become aware of the Homeless Solutions Housing First Draft Plan. As a longtime resident (over 40 years) of the La Sierra area I am well aware of the need for housing solutions for various populations. However, I am also a father of 2 children in the Elementary/High School which is directly across the street from the proposed Pierce Street location. I do not think this is an appropriate location with small children playing and walking literally a few feet away. I am very familiar with the area and active in our school activities and feel this could be quite disruptive and, sadly, even possibly dangerous.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Keep up the good work.

Bob Bauman

PSHplancomment

From: Gmail <dmachain20@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 2:34 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Homeless shelter

Good afternoon,

I am a current Riverside resident living near the empty lot at Indiana & Vallejo and have been there for over 5 years. I have been made aware of a proposal to develop a Homeless Shelter at this location. I would like to voice my disapproval of this proposal. There are many young families, like my own, that live in the surrounding neighborhoods of that lot, and there are many kids who walk to and from school each day. Having a Homeless Shelter in such close proximity does not seem like a safe idea for the children, families, and properties of the neighborhood. This area has recently undergone some beneficial changes including a new metro-friendly apartment complex and a rejuvenation of the local bowling alley to attract better clientele.

I am urging you to please not support this proposal as it will not bring any benefit to the family-friendly neighborhoods.

Regards,
- Alex

Sent from my iPhone

PSHplancomment

From: Eddy Jara <eddyajara@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 3:09 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First plan comment

I fully support the Housing First concept. I have a couple of suggestions to strengthen the draft plan/executive summary: a) you can consider including a reference (i.e., a footnote) to a health through housing framework, and b) you could also consider adding an explanation about the partnerships involved in the future implementation of the proposed plan, including the supportive services.

Thanks for the opportunity to make comments.

Eddy

PSHplancomment

From: Taher Bhajjee <tbhai001@ucr.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 3:25 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Support for Housing First Plan

To whom it may concern,

My name is Taher Bhajjee and I am a 1st year medical student at UC Riverside School of Medicine. I am writing to share my support for the Housing First plans in consideration in Riverside.

I support the Housing First plan and its core components under California Law. It is an endeavor worthy of investment and careful programmatic planning and delivery. It is based on evidence demonstrating better outcomes for residents compared to other housing models and lower costs overall. It is also, importantly, based in a valuing of all life and health for everyone. As plans move forward, I urge policymakers to always consider whether plans are in the best interest of and primarily benefit those most marginalized in our communities - to put justice at the center of this work. In particular, I share my support for creating solutions to the intersection of homelessness and psychiatric conditions as well as substance use through social and health service provision, not criminalization and policing.

Thank you for your time!

Go Riverside! Riverside Pride!
Taher Bhajjee

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



February 12, 2018

Housing Authority of the City of Riverside
Attn: Michelle Davis, Housing Authority Manager
3900 Main Street, Fifth Floor
Riverside, CA 92522

(Via E-Mail)

RE: City of Riverside Housing First Strategy

Dear Ms. Davis,

We applaud the City's initiative to create nearly 400 Permanent Supportive Housing Units (PSH) units and a commitment to the "Housing First" method of service delivery – deeply affordable housing paired with intensive case management targeted at this hardest to serve homeless individuals.

Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation is a leader in the creation and operation of affordable housing in California, delivering high-quality residential developments that address the needs of the communities we serve. Since we started in 1998, we have created more than 6,700 affordable homes at 44 properties throughout the state, each of which showcases our commitment to building and operating cost-efficient housing communities with superior on-site programs and services for residents. Wakeland has also welcomed 205 new households to our Atmosphere community, including 51 tenants who have recently experienced homelessness (PSH units).

With this experience in mind, Wakeland offers the attached comments to the City's Draft Housing First Plan. Should you have any questions related to these comments, please reach out to Wakeland's Supportive Housing Director, Tricia Testo Levien at 619.235.2296 or via e-mail at tlevien@wakelandhdc.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Louie".

Rebecca Louie, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation
1230 Columbia Street
Suite 950
San Diego, CA 92101

- **Supportive Services Funding and Operating Subsidies.** The biggest gaps that we as developers are seeing in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) developments is the need for supportive services funding and operating subsidies for PSH developments units. The supportive services funding needs to be long-term (e.g. at least 15 years) and sufficient enough to adequately and effectively provide comprehensive services to highly vulnerable individuals.
- **Existing and Future Funding Sources Available to Pay for On-Going Supportive Services.** The plan outlines potential capital resources for the development of PSH in the City of Riverside along with discussion of 389 project-based vouchers being dedicated to PSH projects in the City of Riverside. However, there is little discussion regarding existing and future sources of funding available to PSH developments to pay for comprehensive supportive services to meet the needs of the chronically homeless and disabled homeless populations residing at the PSH developments. The plan should include information on these potential funding sources; PSH best practices including recommended supportive service staff to tenant ratios; best practices regarding on-site and off-site supportive services and staffing levels; and industry standards for per unit/per year supportive services costs for chronically and disabled homeless individuals.
- **Allow Capitalization of Supportive Services Reserve.** There's a need for local funders like the City of Riverside to allow supportive services to be funded out of operations (at a sufficient level) and to allow developers to use capital dollars to capitalize a supportive services reserve to be used to help fund services for formerly homeless individuals. The City of Riverside should explore allowing developers to capitalize a supportive services reserve that can be used to fund services in PSH units.
- **Project Profiles.** The Plan may want to consider including some project profiles of PSH projects in California and include information on their supportive services staffing levels and budget for supportive services. Funding for supportive services in PSH needs to be funded at an adequate level to ensure that the development is successful and that housing retention rates meet or exceed HUD standards.
- **Expand list of developers and developments in Appendix L.** Appendix L appears to only include special needs developers and developments that are 40 units or less. There are an array of special needs developers and developments that are larger than 40 units that are not represented in Appendix L.



- **Address Operations of PSH Units.** The Plan should devote some time to not only the development of PSH but the operations of PSH including the additional costs to operate PSH most notably in the areas of additional security costs. According to a 2011 CSH and Enterprise study, “Permanent Supportive Housing: An Operating Cost Analysis”, operating costs in permanent supportive housing are on average 11 percent higher than affordable housing, with security accounting for a large part of that difference. Permanent supportive housing incurred expenses of \$613 more per unit per year than affordable housing. Legal, administration, security payroll/contract and property management expenses were, on average, 53 percent higher in permanent supportive housing as compared with affordable housing. Security payroll/contract expenses were significantly higher for permanent supportive housing. All but one of the permanent supportive housing developments included in the study reported _____ having _____ security.
- **Training, Technical Assistance and Peer Support Networks for Property Management.** Consideration should be given to the challenges faced by property management staff in working with a vulnerable population. These staff often receive little training in working with vulnerable populations including individuals with a mental illness. The City of Riverside should explore additional training, technical assistance, and peer support networks for property management and other staff working in PSH developments. Consider establishing a fund dedicated to repairing damage caused by tenants/participants in the City’s “Housing First” Program.
- **Consider Housing Authority Policy Changes to Streamline Funding Applications.** Use the Safe Harbor Provision found in Section 3700(a)(1) of the California Health and Safety Code to satisfy provisions of Article XXXIV of the State Constitution. Under this safe harbor provision, used my many jurisdictions and familiar to the State Department of Housing and Community Development, the City of Riverside would restrict not more than 49% of the units in an affordable housing project, when that project will also be funded with Low Income Housing Tax Credits and consequently subject to a Tax Credit Allocating Committee (TCAC) regulatory agreement restricting 100% of the units to either not more than 50 percent or 60 percent of Area _____ Median _____ Income.
- **Update Riverside Municipal Code, Article VIII, Chapter 19.545 – Density Bonus** to comply with or exceed current state minimum requirements.

PSHplancomment

From: Chani Beeman <chanibee@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 6:10 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Support for Housing First Plan

Hello,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the draft proposal for Housing First in Riverside. I support this plan as an important step toward addressing the increasing problem of homelessness in our community. I've done a lot of research, interviewed providers for PSH and attended the UCR Public Policy Institute seminar on housing policies.

Housing First is the best option available. Research shows that the current approach is not only NOT effective (duh) it is more expensive and more harmful in trying to address homelessness. The cost of homelessness can be calculated at some many levels, not the least of which is the cost to individuals who slip further and further away from options as they loose shelter.

I am proud that Riverside is meeting this challenge in a deep and systematic manner. I also know that this plan is not the full answer; there is no one solution to resolving homelessness. However, I believe that involving the faith community, addressing the availability of affordable housing and implementing this plan will help us get closer to the goal of assuring access to shelter.

The plan has a complex financing plan that allocates already existing funding toward implementation of this plan. However, ongoing support from Measure Z funds is critical and was one of the issues to be funded when the city was promoting passage of Measure Z.

Chani Beeman

PSHplancomment

From: Margaret Clark <Margaret.Clark@medsch.ucr.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 7:02 PM
To: PSHplancomment
Subject: [External] Housing First Public Comment

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Margaret Clark and I am a 3rd year medical student at UC Riverside School of Medicine. I also plan to continue practicing in our region during residency and my career. I am writing to share my enthusiastic support for the Housing First plan up for consideration at Riverside City Council.

Since my first year of medical school, I have volunteered at our Riverside and San Bernardino free clinics. As a third year medical student I rotate through our Inland Empire emergency rooms and general medicine floors. Additionally, I currently help care for patients in our psychiatry emergency room on a weekly basis. Many of our patients are homeless. They have told me of difficulty accessing clean spaces for food storage and sanitary preparation. They have difficulty accessing potable water for cleaning their body and clothes. They often experience trauma to body or possessions as a course of living on the streets or in vulnerable environments. For some of these individuals, the years of compounded trauma makes it difficult for them to break the cycle and navigate through the healthcare system for effective prevention and treatment of physical and mental illness. I believe Housing First could help these individuals and make our community and better place to live for all of us.

I support the Housing First plan and its core components under California Law. It is based on evidence demonstrating better outcomes for residents compared to other housing models and lower costs overall. It is also, importantly, based in a valuing of all life and health for everyone. As plans move forward, I urge policymakers to always consider whether plans are in the best interest of and primarily benefit those most marginalized in our communities - to put justice at the center of this work. In particular, I share my support for creating solutions to the intersection of homelessness and psychiatric conditions as well as substance use through social and health service provision, not criminalization and policing.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark
Third Year Medical Student
UC Riverside School of Medicine

PSHplancomment

From: Hawa Ahmad <itsmehawie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 11:03 AM
To: PSHplancomment
Cc: MacArthur, Chris
Subject: [External] Housing units--Riverside

To whom it may concern;

I am currently a resident in the Riverwalk Vista community on La Sierra and Indiana. I received a notice that a housing shelter for the homeless is currently being considered on Indiana and Vallejo to be built. I am writing this email today to state my concerns about this project. I have two children and feel very unsafe having that shelter being built so close to our home.

Last Halloween, we had several homeless people come through our gates and try taking candy from the kids and from the stands we made to distribute candy for the kids. We purchased this home thinking the neighborhood will be safe and research shows that crime rates will go up if a shelter is placed across the street. If this shelter is built, we will have no other option but to sell the home and move to a nearby city like Corona. Please reconsider this project, my kids are my main priority in life and I do not want to endanger their wellbeing by having a homeless shelter so close to them.

Thank you.

--
Sincerely,
A concerned mother
Hawa A. Omar
949-533-9471