



*City of Arts & Innovation*

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# Commission on Disabilities

**TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE: JANUARY 16, 2019**

**FROM: GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION FROM THE MAYOR'S SOCIAL WORK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TO CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT HOW HANDS-ON SOCIAL WORK, COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITIES, FAITH ORGANIZATIONS, THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE'S OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS AND THE LOCAL NONPROFIT HOMELESS SHELTER CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ALLEVIATE BARRIERS TO HOUSING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive an oral presentation from the Mayor's Social Work Internship Program to create awareness about how hands-on social work, collaboration with local universities, faith organizations, the City of Riverside's Office of Homeless Solutions and the local nonprofit homeless shelter can work together to alleviate barriers to housing, health and social services.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission on Disabilities receive an oral presentation from the Mayor's Social Work Internship Program to create awareness about how hands-on social work, collaboration with local universities, faith organizations, the City of Riverside's Office of Homeless Solutions and the local nonprofit homeless shelter can work together to alleviate barriers to housing, health and social services.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Commission on Disabilities' (COD) mission is to identify the needs of persons with disabilities and create a public awareness of these needs in the areas of employment, housing, transportation, media, and physical and communication accessibility. The mission also supports programs and activities that promote greater independence for people with disabilities.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Office of the Mayor launched a multi-sector social work internship program for Masters in Social Work (MSW) students looking to fulfill academic requirements while also gaining valuable

experience working hands-on with the homeless in the community. The internship program consists of three local universities, Loma Linda University, La Sierra University, and California Baptist University; seven local faith-based organizations; the City of Riverside's Office of Homeless Solutions; and Path of Life Ministries, our local nonprofit homeless shelter provider.

The program is strategically structured to identify and alleviate systemic barriers and gaps in the delivery of health and social services through large, intermediate, and small projects. Through exposure in the Office of the Mayor and with City staff, interns will be offered a landscape view of the policy and programs that shape our response to homelessness and cultivate an understanding of how policy has an impact on the health outcomes of individuals and groups. At an intermediate level, interns will be placed at seven faith-based organizations serving as a liaison and conduit of information between the larger initiative, the faith community, the nonprofit ecosystem, and City staff. Under the supervision of the Field Instructor, interns will work with community members and provide assistance with housing navigation services, mental health services, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and job readiness assistance.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Submitted by: Monique Gordon, ADA Coordinator  
Approved by: Carl Carey, General Services Director  
Approved by: Moises Lopez, Deputy City Manager

Attachment: The Mayor's Social Work Internship Program Summary