



September 12, 2017

Civil Grand Jury Foreperson
2016-2017 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

To Whom it May Concern:

Pursuant to your June 9, 2017 letter regarding Grand Jury Report No. 1707, "Homelessness in the Cities" please consider this to be the City of Hercules' response.

According to page 10 of the Report, Hercules is required to respond to F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F9, and F10 and Recommendations R1, R2, R3, and R4.

Findings

F1. CORE teams are most likely to be the first point of entry for the homeless into the County's Coordinated Entry System.

Hercules agrees with this finding.

F2. CORE teams can successfully identify a homeless individual in need of physical or mental health services.

Hercules agrees with this finding.

F3. CORE teams have the resources to identify if there are vacant shelter beds available in the County.

Hercules agrees with this finding.

F4. CORE teams are equipped and have the authorization to transport homeless individuals to a medical facility or to a homeless shelter.

Hercules partially agrees with this finding.

F5. CORE teams build trust between the homeless and police departments.

Hercules agrees with this finding.

- F9. The cities of Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg, and Walnut Creek, which are the CDBG Entitlement Cities, are the only cities in Contra Costa County that have an approved written homeless plan to end or reduce homelessness in their respective jurisdictions
Hercules agrees with this finding.
- F10. The City appears to be in compliance with the California Housing Accountability Act
Hercules agrees with this finding and does comply fully with the California Housing Accountability Act.

Recommendations

- R1. The City should consider establishing CORE teams either by partnering with one or more cities in the region or by funding its own team.
This recommendation will not be implemented. This recommendation has been partially implemented. As a small City with only 1 homeless person in the count we rely on coordinating with County services
- R2. The City should consider providing incentives for developers to construct housing for the extremely low income, very low income, and homeless populations.
First, in the Bayfront-Waterfront district higher density has been approved within approximately 20 acres of entitled land which requires the provision of 5% affordable housing to low and very-low income households within their full development before constructing their 300th housing units within the 1,392 unit master plan are through a Development Agreement. Second, the City's Zoning Ordinance Sections 30.400 through 30.470 contains provision to allow other density bonuses on other properties within the City in conformity with State law.
- R3. The City should consider using Successor Agency funds, CDBG and other federal housing funds, impact fees, and city general funds to assist in funding housing for the extremely low income, very low income and homeless populations.
This recommendation has not yet been implemented all of this recommendation. First, the City is not an affordable housing Successor Agency when its former Redevelopment Agency was eliminated through State law and therefore does not have any funding available for housing activities nor staffing to carry out the work. Second, Hercules is a member of the Contra Costa County Cooperation Agreement for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Grant Programs should the City as a potential grant source should a project be proposed by a developer. Lastly, the City's Housing Element under an object under Program 1d states that "in 2016, (the city) explore incentives to encourage developers to include units affordable to extremely low income households, including but not limited to

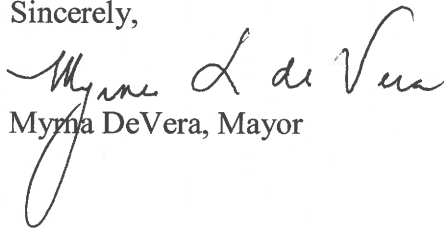
additional density or floor area ratio increases, flexible development standards (such as parking, height limit), and priority processing. The objective is to create three affordable units for extremely low income households over the planning period (2015-2024)

- R4. The City should consider adopting a five-year comprehensive homeless plan, as soon as possible with a target date of January 1, 2019, to reduce the homeless population in the City.

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted given the single homeless person identified in the 2017.

We hope this letter is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,



Myrna De Vera, Mayor