

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Salinas, California

DATE: August 16, 2016

FROM: Joe Gunter, Mayor

BY: Christopher A. Callihan, City Attorney
Gary Petersen, Public Works Director
Megan Hunter, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO 2015-2016 MONTEREY COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORTS**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the attached letter responding to the findings and the recommendations in the 2015-2016 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report regarding "Housing Homeless Women?"

DISCUSSION:

Final Report: "Housing Homeless Women?"

On June 14, 2016, the Grand Jury issued its Final Report titled "Housing Homeless Women?" As a result of their investigation, the Grand Jury made seven findings and seven recommendations. The Grand Jury has requested a response from the City Council on four of the findings (F4 – F7) and on four of the recommendations (R4 – R7).

The four Findings to which the City was requested to provide a response are, as follows:

- F4. Funding is provided by Monterey County and cities to build low cost housing most of which is unaffordable for homeless women.
- F5. There are insufficient resources to house the homeless, evidence by the increasing number of encampments and people living in the street.
- F6. The cities of Monterey, Salinas and Marina and Monterey County have identified property owned by them that could be used for low cost and transitional housing, but it is currently not being utilized.
- F7. Safe overnight parking for homeless women is scarce in Monterey County.

While not specifically requested to do so, City staff recommend the City also provide responses to findings F1 and F2, so as to provide a more-complete response relative to the City's efforts in addressing homelessness, generally. Findings F1 and F2 are, as follows:

- F1. Monterey County's Lead Me Home Plan has stalled due to factors including the recession, loss of redevelopment funds, lack of identified leadership and political will.
- F2. The creation of Housing Pipeline Communities, the first and primary step of the Lead Me Home Plan, did not occur.

The four Recommendations to which the City was requested to provide a response are, as follows:

- R4. Monterey County and cities within it, shall include more very low cost housing in their action and development plans, beginning with their 2017 plans.
- R5. Monterey County and cities within it shall cooperate with non-profits on proposals for alternative temporary shelters for the homeless.
- R6. Monterey County and cities within it shall identify which of their owned property could be utilized for very low cost and transitional housing by June 2017.
- R7. Monterey County and cities within it shall increase permits for safe overnight parking for homeless women living in their vehicles by June 2017.

Responses to each of these Findings and each of these Recommendations are provided in the attached, proposed letter.

Required Responses to the Findings and the Recommendations

With respect to each Finding, the Grand Jury has requested that the City Council indicate either (1) That they agree with the finding, or (2) That they disagree wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the Council must specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include in the response an explanation of the reasons for the disagreement. And, with respect to each recommendation, the Grand Jury has requested that the City Council report one of the following actions: (1) That the recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action; (2) That the recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation; (3) That the recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the Council (this timeframe not to exceed six months from the date of publication); or (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore. The Police Chief will provide the same required response to those findings and recommendations identified by the Grand Jury in the Final Report on use of body-worn cameras.

California Penal Code section 933(c) requires the City Council to respond to the Grand Jury's Final Reports within ninety days from submittal of the Final Reports. Draft letters responding to each of the

findings and the recommendations identified by the Grand Jury as requiring a response are attached to this Staff Report.

ISSUES:

Shall the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign and to send the attached letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Monterey County responding to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury's Final Reports?

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed responses to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury do not have any direct fiscal impacts on the City's General Fund or Measure V/G Funds.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

Penal Code 933(c) requires the City to respond to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Monterey County within 90 days of the submittal of the report.

ALTERNATIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

1. The City Council may modify the attached letter responding to the findings of the Monterey County Grand Jury Civil Grand Jury.
2. The City Council may elect not to respond to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury; however, this is not recommended as it would conflict with the Penal Code provisions.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

This response to the Grand Jury supports the Council's goal of Effective, Sustainable Government and is required by law.

Back Up Pages:
2015-2016 Civil Grand Jury Final Report
Draft Response Letter to the Presiding Judge