

Lauren Crandell

From: Stephanie Lovette
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 2:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Copy of General Contact - Question/comment for City Council - 9072737

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Mayor Phillips asked that I respond to your email. The City Council shares your concerns about the impact of the street population on residents, business owners and visitors to our community. The City Council is very aware of the current situation in our Downtown, parks and library and has taken a series of actions to address the issue.

As you pointed out, San Rafael does have a disproportionate amount of the burden of this nationwide social issue. Part of the reason is that San Rafael is the County seat for Marin and many of the county seats throughout the State have the same issues with the negative impact of the homeless because County seats are the preferred location for social service providers.

The City has taken some actions to work with our local social service providers to assure that local people receive the assistance that they need without overwhelming our City. The City Council required a use permit for Ritter Center which limits the number of health clients on the campus to 60 people per day and requires an overflow plan to address people that cannot be served within those limits. The City Council and staff are also working closely with Ritter Center to find a new location outside of the Downtown.

At the City's encouragement, St Vincent's and recently Ritter Center have instituted a code of conduct for their clients. St Vincent's also has a security staff that patrols the building and the area around the dining room to discourage people from hanging out on the street. There is also a development proposal for the parking lot on B Street. If this development occurs it will remove the current nuisance situation. St Vincent's works closely with our Police Department and has also recently changed their focus away from one time assistance into a more holistic long term approach and hired a staff person that will focus mainly on locating housing opportunities for their clients. Homeward Bound has always required potential clients at the Mill Street Center to show that they are residents of or working in Marin County.

The Marin Mayors and City Council members organization spent the last year studying the issue of homelessness and the impact on each City and Town in Marin County. At the end of the research project, each City and Town agreed to a three year funding program to implement Countywide solutions. The fund is held by the Marin Community Foundation.

The City adopted a Homeless Action Plan in June 2013. This plan was developed based on the recommendations of a community stakeholder group appointed by the City Council and City staff research on best practices from other California communities that are addressing this issue.

San Rafael's plan includes a combination of enforcement, prevention and support actions to be undertaken and funded by the City of San Rafael. Key plan highlights include:

- Adding an additional downtown police officer (now three officers)
- Adding an additional Open Space Ranger (now two Rangers)
- Adding a mental health professional in the police department for street outreach

- Additional funding for clearing encampments in Open Space
- Launching the Downtown Streets Team to clean the downtown streets and provide employment opportunities and training for homeless persons

Implementation of the majority of the Action Plan started in September 2013.

A copy of the City's Action Plan can be found by [HERE](#).

The County of Marin has adopted the 10 year community plan to address homelessness. This plan is required to get federal funding. A group of social service agencies, county staff, and clients are working to implement this community plan. More information on the Marin County community Plan can be found at <https://www.marinhhs.org/homelessness-marin>

The City Council recently authorized a full time Homeless Director position for a three year term. This position will work closely with the County's homeless coordinator to address many of the issues and concerns that you raised in your email. For a copy of the job description [click here.](#)

Additional information can be found on the City's response to this issue can be found on the City's website, which can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).

This issue is regularly addressed the City Manager's bi-monthly snapshot e publication. To sign up for Snapshot and other City information please click [HERE](#).

Please feel free to call me if you would like to talk further about this situation, new ideas or suggestions on ways to get the word out on what we are doing about this issue.

Stephanie Lovette

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