



**Santa Barbara City Council
Subcommittee on Homelessness and
Community Relations**

**Strategies to Address Community Issues Related
to Homelessness in the City of Santa Barbara**

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Introduction

On June 17, 2008, the Santa Barbara City Council established a Council Subcommittee, made up of three Council members (Chair Iya Falcone, Dale Francisco and Helene Schneider), to study a range of issues related to homeless services and neighborhood impacts. This committee was charged with making recommendations to the full Council, with input from community members, on strategies to address five identified issues:

- 1) Need for increased coordination between City Police and homeless street outreach staff from various agencies to reduce calls for service to City Police;
- 2) Recommendation from the Milpas Action Task Force to consider establishing a Recovery Zone or Alcohol Impact Zone in the Lower Milpas Street area;
- 3) Aggressive panhandling, primarily in the Downtown;
- 4) Gain the support of the courts, District Attorney and County Probation to curb negative behavior (e.g. through injunctions and increased penalties) and require offenders to receive services/treatment to get on the track to recovery;
- 5) Utilization of existing shelter services to more effectively assist the most vulnerable homeless persons.

A series of community forum meetings were held from July 2008 to January 2009 to address the above issues. The subcommittee members gathered input from City staff, local businesses, homeless service providers, community members, and homeless persons on each of the topic areas. Two working task groups were formed to deal specifically with increased coordination of outreach workers and panhandling. These two task groups reported back to the subcommittee with their recommendations.

It was the intent of the subcommittee to provide for the broadest public participation possible in this process. All meeting agendas were posted at City Hall as well as the actual meeting locations. In addition, interested parties were notified by email of all upcoming meetings and a schedule was posted on the subcommittee's website (in addition to upcoming agendas and minutes of previous meetings). The October 22nd, November 13th, December 18th and January 29th meetings were televised on Channel 18 and Councilmember Schneider included meeting topics, locations and dates in regular articles that appeared in CASA Magazine. A schedule of meetings was sent to the homeless shelters and outreach workers because many homeless persons do not have access to email or the internet. The email distribution list for this subcommittee included representatives from the business community, neighborhoods, faith-based organizations, service providers, homeless advocates, and County and City representatives. Interested parties were regularly added to the distribution list throughout the process.

A significant amount of input from the community was gathered and resulted in twelve recommended strategies to address the five original issues.

The subcommittee recognizes that homelessness is a complex social problem that cannot be solved by the City of Santa Barbara alone. The state of the current economy, California's state budget crisis and Santa Barbara County's Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services budget crisis all affect the most vulnerable persons in our community and the agencies and programs that respond to their needs. Depending upon the trajectory of the economy, there is a potential for the problem to get worse before it gets better. The five issues discussed by the Subcommittee and the twelve recommendations that evolved from their meetings are intended to provide concrete strategies to address specific issues in the City.

It is the intention of the Council Subcommittee to request that the City Council, upon adoption of a slate of strategies based on the Subcommittee's final report, direct staff to return to the Council within twelve months of the adoption date with a status report on progress on the identified strategies.

Problem Statements

1. Need for increased coordination between City Police and homeless street outreach staff from various agencies to reduce calls for service to City Police

A Subcommittee meeting was held on August 6, 2008 to discuss the current street outreach teams in Santa Barbara, Police Department coordination regarding homeless outreach, current coordination/communication among outreach providers, and an overview of best practices.

Comments made included: the need for more coordination between street outreach workers and police, fire and park rangers; compassion makes outreach successful; housing rather than treating people on the street reduces the cost by 50%; there is a large amount of money currently being spent on "treating" homelessness; what is Santa Barbara's "carrying capacity" for affordable housing and homeless services; and the importance of involving homeless persons in street outreach efforts because they know what goes on "in the trenches."

The Council Subcommittee recommended that outreach teams, Police and Fire Department staff meet to develop a structure for increased coordination addressing the following topics:

- Ongoing education of police officers/firefighters/paramedics
- Possible expansion of Restorative Policing
- Coordination with street outreach workers prior to camp clean ups
- Increased coordination and open communication among outreach teams
- Strategies to develop consistent open communication between street outreach workers and police
- Publish outreach worker schedules and contact numbers (for other outreach workers, police officers, firefighters, businesses)

- Contingency plan for emergencies, including natural disasters and inclement weather
- Coordinated plan development for chronic homeless individuals
- Ongoing training for outreach teams
- Outreach at food distribution locations
- Discharge planning at hospitals and jail (discharge only to halfway houses, sobering center, etc)
- Utilization of homeless persons for street outreach
- Police Department should not be first contact (we should be more proactive and less reactive)
- Need for contacts for police when homeless person is encountered
- More coordination with camp clean ups (don't just move people around; use clean ups as opportunities for outreach)
- Develop structure for contacts/coordination
- Shared database (legalities?)
- 10-Year Plan staff to coordinate outreach (funding?)
- 24/7 coverage – funding issues (sources/timelines/sustainable funding sources)
- Coordinated training for all outreach workers
- Downtown corridor schedule for outreach (including police)
- Lower Milpas/East Beach schedule for outreach (including police)
- Outcome data for all outreach teams
- Build programs around individuals

Outreach Task Group Input

The Outreach Task Group met on October 23, 2008 to learn about each other's services and discuss increased coordination. Many of the outreach workers in attendance already meet weekly at Cottage Hospital to discuss patients being discharged. The City's Restorative Policing officers also attend those meetings. The purpose of the Cottage Hospital weekly meeting is to develop a discharge plan for homeless patients to ensure that they are not discharged to the street.

The group discussed how they could take all their expertise and focus on the Police Department's *Open Container Top 100 Offender List* by identifying a primary case manager for each individual. It is believed that many of these *Top 100 Offenders* are also chronically homeless and it would be helpful to identify those on the list that the outreach workers think may be open to or ready for change. If this approach is successful then they can go to the next tier on the list. The Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness includes an outreach coordination component, including discharge planning and help for youth aging out of the foster care system.

The outreach groups agreed to select one person each from the top offender list and see what they could do in the next 30 days working with those individuals. Actual names of those selected by outreach workers were not disclosed due to confidentiality

requirements. The group also discussed coordination surrounding Police sweeps of homeless encampments. The outreach workers suggested that they be notified in advance of a sweep so they can contact people living in the camps and use it as an opportunity to offer services. They also discussed the need for funds for emergency hotel vouchers so that when a person is ready to leave the streets they have a place to go. Clean and Sober Court, run by the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, was also discussed as a tool to be used for those with substance abuse issues. The group also discussed a possible client tracking tool.

Following the Outreach Task Group meeting on October 23rd, strategy discussions continued, focused on leadership for on-going coordination of outreach efforts. These discussions led to a consensus that leadership should be provided by the Ten Year Plan staff and that City funding to support this coordination role should be applied for through the City's Community Development Block Grant/Human Services Program. An application for a \$22,000 grant was subsequently submitted by Bringing Our Community Home, Santa Barbara's Ten-Year Plan organization in early January, including outreach coordination as a goal. Recommendations from the Community Development and Human Services Committee on this and other requests are tentatively scheduled for presentation to the City Council in March 2009.

2. Recommendation from the Milpas Action Task Force to consider establishing a Recovery Zone or Alcohol Impact Zone in the Lower Milpas Street area

A Subcommittee meeting was held on August 29, 2008 to discuss current issues in the Lower Milpas Street area. A request was made by the Milpas Action Task Force for a Recovery Zone in the Lower Milpas Area and the feasibility for setting this up was discussed, including a description of the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) licensing process. The request from the Milpas Action Task Force included the following recommendations:

- A consistent, proactive police presence to safeguard the residents and people in the area from drug dealing, illegal panhandling, loitering and illegal sales of alcoholic beverages to intoxicated individuals;
- A change in the terms of probation and parole (stay order) so that convicted drug dealers would not be allowed in the recovery zone;
- That City Council inform the state Alcohol Beverage Control that several liquor outlets in the area are breaking the law by selling alcohol to people who are clearly intoxicated; and,
- That City Council establish a CUP process whereby any business wishing to sell alcoholic beverages must abide by conditions the Council would establish for such sales.

The City Attorney's Office explained that California does not currently have a statute that would allow local alcohol impact areas, so the first step would be state-wide legislation. After this, the City would ask for voluntary compliance of businesses in the area to ban sales on certain types of alcoholic beverages. If for a particular business the voluntary ban was not working, the City would then go to the ABC with this information as well as

police reports, medical response in the area and citizen complaints. The City would then be able to ask the ABC to prohibit the sale of certain products in the zone. The results have been mixed in other jurisdictions that have done this (e.g. Seattle). It has been reported that people just go outside the area to buy liquor or they buy different products. The City's Legislative Platform includes support of legislation to encourage local control over problem alcohol establishments and properties where illegal drugs are sold.

The City Attorney's Office also explained the process for possible "stay away orders" for people convicted of drug dealing. The orders must be very specific and limited to the area where the individual was arrested. However, if the person either lives, works or goes to church in the area, such orders cannot be applied. Enforcement is problematic. Finally, the District Attorney must be willing to impose the stay order and the judge must be willing to uphold it.

Staff from the Police Department and the City Attorney's Office researched the feasibility of a Recovery Zone proposal for areas surrounding Casa Esperanza, which are frequently negatively affected by criminal homeless activity and drug usage/dealing. The Recovery Zone proposal, as presented by the Milpas Action Task Force, is patterned after a City of Los Angeles program, which focuses on a well established "skid row" in central Los Angeles. Santa Barbara City staff believes the Los Angeles model is not well suited for implementation in the proposed Recovery Zone. This belief is supported by the following:

- Santa Barbara City does not have a "skid row" as in Los Angeles;
- Of the top 100 criminal homeless offenders, only 3% are on probation/parole and none are on probation/parole for drug related offenses. Therefore few offenders, if any, will be subject to the restrictions of the Recovery Zone;
- The Santa Barbara County Probation Department currently uses "stay away" orders, which are a component of the probationer's terms and conditions of probation. These orders compel, under threat of arrest, a probationer to stay at least 100 yards from specific locations which have a direct connection to the criminal behavior for which the probationer was arrested. These "stay away" orders will be used for areas inside the proposed Recovery Zone boundaries, as the situation arises;
- Homeless subjects, in need of services commonly provided by the Casa Esperanza or other homeless service providers, are exempt from the restrictions of the Recovery Zone (even in Los Angeles);
- The area defined in the Recovery Zone proposal already receives an enhanced level of police services, including increased patrolling by beat officers and directed enforcement by our Tactical Patrol Force. This enforcement effort will continue and may be increased, as the need arises; and
- Casa Esperanza is already seeking to sustain and increase their outreach efforts to the homeless.

Increased police presence in the Milpas area was discussed and it was explained that an increase in that area would require a shift of resources that would impact other areas. The viability of a Conditional Use Permit process for establishments selling alcohol in

the area was questioned as it would apply only to new businesses; existing stores would be grandfathered in.

The Police Department has begun an Area Enforcement Program that includes 6 specific areas, one of which is the area between the 300 block north and the 300 block south on Milpas Street. This program treats open container violations and other Municipal Code violations, such as aggressive solicitation, as misdemeanors instead of citations.

3. Aggressive panhandling, primarily in the Downtown

A Subcommittee meeting was held on September 11, 2008 to discuss a request from the Downtown Organization for reinstatement of the downtown foot/bike patrol; a review of programs and ordinances related to panhandling in other cities; and consideration of potential amendments to the City's solicitation ordinance. The issues that the Downtown Organization sees as problematic include: aggressive panhandling; use of public benches for solicitation and/or street performing; sidewalk skateboarding and bike riding; and aggressive homeless youth.

A study of panhandling ordinances and programs from other jurisdictions revealed three common themes: acknowledgement that panhandling is legal; most cities attempt to enforce laws against aggressive panhandling, however police feel constrained in doing so; and many panhandlers are not homeless. The City currently has ordinances dealing with panhandling, including the prohibition of aggressive soliciting; sitting or lying on sidewalks and paseos along certain downtown portions of State Street; pedestrians blocking public sidewalks; injuring or interfering with property; solicitation of employment, business or contributions from streets; and commercial use of City streets. The Subcommittee formed a task group to come up with suggestions to reduce aggressive panhandling on State Street, Cabrillo Boulevard and Milpas Street.

Panhandling Task Group Input

The Panhandling Task Group met on October 17, 2008, and October 30, 2008. Representatives from the Downtown Organization, Conference and Visitors Bureau, Chamber Of Commerce, Greater Santa Barbara Lodging and Restaurant Association, homeless service providers, homeless advocates and City staff attended the meetings and came up with the following suggestions:

- Consider a revised City ordinance dealing with panhandling, including proximity to dining establishments, ATM machines, bus stops and public benches;
- Develop a campaign to educate the public on the detrimental effects of giving to panhandlers. In 4 out of 5 cases, the cash given to panhandlers is used to buy alcohol or illegal drugs to support their addictions and continued lifestyle on the street;
- In concert with the public educational campaign described above, explore the feasibility of an alternate giving campaign focusing on a "Santa Barbara Cares" message; and

- Expand City Police presence on State Street, Cabrillo Boulevard and Milpas Street.

4. Gain the support of the courts, District Attorney and County Probation to curb negative behavior (e.g. through injunctions and increased penalties) and require offenders to receive services/treatment to get on the track to recovery

A Subcommittee meeting was held on October 2, 2008 to discuss changes in the Court sentencing and bench warrant policies and to examine two enforcement programs that have been undertaken by the Police Department: the Chronic Offender Program and the Area Enforcement Program.

Two years ago the Santa Barbara County Courts began implementing AB 139, which allows local courts to impose civil assessments for infractions, misdemeanors and felonies instead of issuing bench warrants. Like most California courts, the local courts only impose civil assessments for infractions. Prior to AB 139, if a person failed to appear for an infraction, such as violation of open container laws, a bench warrant was issued for his or her arrest. In order to have a bench warrant issued now, the charge must be filed as a misdemeanor.

The Police Department looked at the total number of citations issued for open containers in the last year and found that the top 83 offenders received a disproportionately high number of citations. Further, the citations given in just six high impact areas of the City constituted 43% of the total citations. In order to focus limited resources on the problem, the City Police came up with the Chronic Offender and Area Enforcement Programs. The goal of these two programs is to change behavior and motivate repeat offenders to get treatment. They focus on the Top 10 offenders who represent a small percentage of violators for open containers yet who are responsible for a large number of the overall violations. Under the Chronic Offender Program the offenses are written up as misdemeanors and the violators face jail time or treatment. The Area Enforcement Program considers all open container violations in any of the six high impact areas as misdemeanors, so again offenders face jail time or treatment.

The Subcommittee suggested that the street outreach teams coordinate to work with the top offenders.

5. Utilization of existing shelter services to more effectively assist the most vulnerable homeless persons

A Subcommittee meeting was held on October 22, 2008 to discuss the current shelter capacity in Santa Barbara, as well as the current shelter usage. All shelters, with the exception of Noah's Anchorage, reported that they have been full to capacity for several months. There was much discussion regarding the immediate need for more beds/units for special populations (e.g. women, families, people with medical needs, people entering into recovery, etc). Central to the discussion was the potential impact on the Milpas area community if additional beds were approved on a year-round basis at Casa Esperanza to assist these special populations. There was also discussion regarding the use of shelter beds at other locations for the Top Offender outreach effort.

Public comments regarding the potential to expand Casa Esperanza's 100-bed year round shelter included:

- The community may feel more comfortable if the focus is on the elderly or ill because they would have minimal impact on the neighborhood;
- A viable use of the 100 empty beds at Casa Esperanza would be for a portion of the Police Department's list of 100 people with alcohol abuse, drug abuse and/or mental illness, women and children living on the street or in vehicles because the shelters are full, and those needing medical attention;
- 50 – 100 extra beds would have a significant impact on the neighborhood;
- Need to look at a relocation fund for those willing and able to relocate;
- Area around the shelter needs increased police presence;
- The current crisis should not result in building new beds; instead, we need to get people through shelter programs quickly and into housing; and
- We need to use available beds on a temporary basis.

The City of Santa Barbara was recognized during this meeting for the amount of funding that has been invested in homeless shelter beds, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. Santa Barbara, through the City, the County, and non-profit agencies, already provides over 800 beds/units in the city year round; over 900 during the winter months. City support for existing facilities totals over \$18.5 million. The City is also providing approximately \$13.5 million more for projects in the pipeline. These include the Mental Health Association project on Garden Street; Transition House's Moms property; Housing Authority's Artisan Court project on Cota and Olive and Housing Authority's property on Bath Street. There are approximately 164 new units in the pipeline, 53 to 71 of which are for homeless persons.

Recommended Strategies

Although each of the five issues was discussed at separate meetings, it quickly became apparent that many of the issues overlapped and none could be dealt with in isolation. Therefore, the strategies outlined below have been organized into three categories (enforcement, intervention, and prevention) and incorporate suggestions gathered at each of the Subcommittee meetings as well as the two task group meetings. The recommendations are interrelated and as such are intended to be implemented as a package. The implementation of some, without the full package, may have unintended consequences.

Enforcement

Recommendation #1: Adoption of a **City ordinance** that is more restrictive on solicitation, including the following:

- Illegal to solicit at a bus stop;

- Illegal to solicit from an individual in a vehicle on a public street or alleyway;
- Illegal to solicit within a City parking lot or structure;
- Illegal to solicit within an outdoor dining area of a restaurant or other dining establishment;
- Illegal to solicit within 25 feet of an automated bank teller machine;
- Illegal to solicit in a queue of 5 or more persons waiting to gain admission to a place of business or waiting to purchase an item or admission ticket
- Illegal to solicit while seated on a public bench or chair on State Street from the 400 block to the 1200 block, on Milpas Street from the 300 block north to the 300 block south, or on Cabrillo Boulevard between Calle Cesar Chavez Street and Harbor Way.

Solicitation would be specifically defined so that it would not include a person who seeks donations without addressing his or her solicitation to any specific person (such as through the use of a sign asking for donations), other than in response to an inquiry by that person. Enforcement of this ordinance must be done in coordination with a panhandling education campaign and a Santa Barbara Cares compassionate giving campaign (see Recommendation #11)

Issues: There could be a potential impact on the City Attorney's Office to prosecute violations of this ordinance as misdemeanor offenses.

Recommendation #2: Continue and expand **intergovernmental cooperation** to curb negative behavior.

- Coordination between the Police Department, Courts and City Attorney's Office to prosecute chronic offenders of an open container and other municipal code violations, such as aggressive panhandling, as misdemeanors instead of infractions;
- Coordination between the Police Department, Courts and City Attorney's Office to prosecute violations of open container offenses and other municipal code violations, such as aggressive panhandling, in certain specific areas of the City as misdemeanors instead of infractions;
 - ✓ 400-600 blocks of State Street;
 - ✓ Main Library;
 - ✓ Cabrillo Ball Field;
 - ✓ 300 North – 300 South Milpas Street;
 - ✓ Oak Park; and
 - ✓ Pershing Park.
- Lobby our Assembly member and State Senator to sponsor and enact legislation allowing local control over alcohol impact areas;
- Develop an Assessment Protocol to measure success of chronic offender and area enforcement programs (in conjunction with Assessment Protocols under recommendations # 5 and #10).

Issues: There could be a potential impact on the City Attorney's Office to prosecute violations of chronic offenders and violations occurring in certain specific areas as misdemeanor offenses.

Work in Progress: The Police Department and City Attorney's Office have begun implementing the Chronic Offender and Area Enforcement Programs with some success.

Recommendation #3: Continue to utilize Police Department **deployment strategies** to best meet the immediate demands of the community.

- Re-deploy Restorative Policing officers and Tactical Patrol Force officers to cover more daytime hours on State Street;
- Explore the possibility with the Downtown Organization of their funding half of a part-time retired police officer to patrol State Street 5 hours per day, seven days per week.

Issues: Re-deployment of Restorative Policing officers and Tactical Patrol Force officers will lessen the number of officers available for nightlife enforcement and enforcement of other areas of the City. The cost to hire a part-time retired Police Officer would be approximately \$80,000 - \$100,000 per year (half paid by the City and half paid by the Downtown Organization). Currently, the Police Department and the Downtown Organization are considering this proposal.

Work in Progress: The Police Department regularly deploys its officers to meet the needs of the community, for example the scheduling for the Tactical Patrol Force (bicycle officers) has been adjusted to better accommodate problems associated with transient behavior during daylight hours. The Police Department has also flexed the scheduling options to include 7 day per week coverage in this detail.

Recommendation #4: Implement principles of a Recovery Zone for the Milpas Area to the extent legally permissible to do so as follows:

- Work with County District Attorney's Office and County Probation Department to request that local Superior Court judges, when imposing formal and informal probation conditions, issue and enforce a "stay away" order probation condition in connection with felony drug convictions. Such a condition would prohibit the probationer from being within the area that the City has designated as a "Milpas Area Recovery Zone" unless he or she has a legitimate reason for being in the area, such as going to or from a place of employment, in order to receive drug counseling, or if the individual (including homeless persons) lives within the Recovery Zone;
- Recognizing the need for limitations on alcohol sales in the area, develop a policy for Conditional Use Permits for new ABC permittees within the area

generally defined as the Milpas Corridor that limits the type of alcohol and the type of single sale alcohol containers which may be sold by the permittee within the Milpas Area Recovery Zone;

- Have the Police Department take an aggressive stand on new liquor licenses and enforcement on ABC violations.

Issues: There are constitutional requirements that would prevent the City from enforcing “stay away orders” for some individuals (e.g. going to and from work, those receiving drug counseling or other services at the shelter, and those living in the area). If the City established more restrictive conditional use permits for the sale of alcoholic beverages, existing establishments with ABC permits would be grandfathered in for a period of time. Also, limiting the type of alcohol sold may simply result in an increase in sales of another non-limited type.

Ongoing Effort: The Police Department has initiated discussions with the County Probation Department regarding the use of “stay away” orders for those convicted of selling drugs at locations within the area proposed by the Milpas Action Task Force as a Recovery Zone. This concept was discussed at a recent meeting of Probation Department managers and supervisors, and the issuance of “stay away” orders will be used, as appropriate, for drug dealing offenses in these areas. For example, these “stay away” orders will be issued for arrestees convicted of selling drugs at or near the “labor line” in front of the Rescue Mission. These subjects will be required to stay 100 yards away from specific locations associated with or contributing towards their criminal behavior, including such locations as the Labor Line.

Intervention

Recommendation #5: Encourage coordination and cooperation of **street outreach** teams and the Police Department to work with those on the Top 100 open container offender list.

- Work with *Bringing Our Community Home, Santa Barbara’s 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*, to take on coordination of outreach workers and police officers and encourage them to apply for City and County Human Services funds if resources are not currently available;
- Encourage outreach teams to build on the current weekly meeting held at Cottage Hospital;
- Work with street outreach providers to secure funding needed to keep current levels of service and encourage them to apply for City and County Human Services funding;
- Hold quarterly meetings with Police Department and street outreach teams to enhance collaboration;

- Inform street outreach teams prior to major homeless enforcement actions so they can contact people living in the camps and use it as an opportunity to offer services;
- Develop an Assessment Protocol to measure the success of coordination and cooperation of street outreach teams and Police Department in working with chronic offenders (in conjunction with Assessment Protocols under recommendations #2 and #10).

Issues: Funding for the organization with the greatest number of street outreach hours (Casa Esperanza) will run out at the end of the fiscal year. They will need to secure \$100,000 per year to keep their current level of service (8 hours per day/7 days per week). Funding new programs, such as outreach coordination and street outreach teams, with City Human Services funds may mean that other programs will receive less or no funding.

Work in Progress: The Police Department held a meeting with the street outreach teams and several outreach workers agreed to work with one person on the Top 100 list. Strategy discussions have continued to focus on leadership for on-going coordination of outreach efforts, with a consensus emerging that such leadership should be provided by the Ten Year Plan staff and that City funding to support this coordination role should be applied for through the City's Community Development Block Grant/Human Services Program. An application for a \$22,000 grant was subsequently submitted by Bringing Our Community Home, Santa Barbara's Ten-Year Plan organization in early January, including outreach coordination as a goal. Recommendations from the Community Development and Human Services Committee on this and other requests are tentatively scheduled for presentation to the City Council in March 2009.

Recommendation #6: The Subcommittee acknowledges the strong need for more shelter beds for vulnerable populations. If shelter service providers wish to amend conditional use permits to allow for an increase in their year round beds for vulnerable populations (e.g. women with children, elderly, youth aging out of the foster care system, persons with medical conditions and persons on the Top 100 list who are ready to get off the street and into recovery), work with them and their neighbors in the amendment process to assess the potential impact on the neighborhood and identify mitigation strategies.

Issues: While Casa Esperanza has had a positive impact in the city-wide effort to end the problem of homelessness, the Milpas area neighborhood has been negatively impacted by the presence of the shelter and an increase in the number of year round beds may exacerbate this impact.

Recommendation #7: Consider using Community Development Block Grant and Redevelopment Agency funds for capital improvements in the lower Milpas Street area to mitigate the impact of homelessness. Projects could include Cabrillo Ball Field restrooms, lighting on Milpas Street, etc.

Issues: The Redevelopment Agency has limited funds and the Agency sunsets in 2015.

Recommendation #8: The significant need for additional detox beds is recognized and staff is directed to work with relevant agencies to help them with securing locations and funding for more **detox beds and recovery beds** for homeless individuals with substance abuse issues.

- Work with interested organizations on zoning issues related to detox and recovery bed expansion;
- Work with interested organizations in securing funding needed for detox and recovery bed expansion and encourage them to apply for City and County Human Services funding;
- Work with the Salvation Army and detox service providers to determine the appropriateness of expanding their facility for recovery, and if appropriate, offer to expedite the discretionary review process.

Issues: Funding new programs, such as detox and/or recovery programs, with City Human Services funds may mean that other programs will receive less or no funding.

Recommendation #9: Continue and expand the **Restorative Policing Program** to work with homeless persons with mental illness.

- Continue to train Police Officers in restorative policing strategies when working with mentally ill homeless persons;
- Expand the number of restorative Police Officers as needed.

Issues: The Police Department has limited staffing for the expansion of the Restorative Policing Program.

Work in Progress: The Police Officer assigned full time to the Restorative Policing Program (Officer Hove) currently carries a caseload of approximately 20 to 25 individuals and has some encouraging success stories.

Recommendation #10: Work with service providers to secure funding for **relocation funds** and **emergency hotel vouchers** and programs to help **reconnect** people with their families.

- Work with the County, private foundations and non-profits to secure funding to relocate and/or reconnect homeless persons with their families, when appropriate;
- Direct staff to use interest income from the Coastal Zone Affordable Overnight Accommodation Fund for a program providing emergency hotel

vouchers for vulnerable populations, such as women with children, elderly, youth aging out of the foster care system, persons with medical conditions and persons on the Top 100 list who are ready to get off the street and into recovery; create a pilot program with a non-profit agency to deliver these program services as soon as possible, generally coincident with other recommended strategies that are based on enforcement;

- Develop an Assessment Protocol to measure the success of relocation funds, hotel vouchers and reconnecting people with their families (in conjunction with Assessment Protocols under recommendations # 2 and #5).

Issues: In FY 2006, the Redevelopment Agency received \$1,140,794 for an overnight accommodation mitigation fee from an applicant for the issuance of a Coastal Development Permit (the Entrada Project and its conversion of the Californian Hotel). The Agency is to use these funds and any interest earned, at its discretion, to mitigate the loss of the low-cost lodging that was provided by the Californian Hotel. Opportunities for new development or rehabilitation of such lodging have not materialized. As of June 30, 2009, the fund had earned \$123,500 in interest. At a yield rate of 4%, the existing fund would earn approximately \$45,000 per year. The intention is to use the annual interest earning to fund the relocation and voucher activities in order to preserve the income stream. A process for the allocation and use of these monies would have to be formulated with the participating non-profits.

Prevention

Recommendation #11: Develop a **panhandling and alternate giving campaign** in collaboration with the Downtown Organization, the Conference and Visitors Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Santa Barbara Lodging and Restaurant Association, homeless service providers, and homeless advocates.

- Educate the public on the detrimental effects of panhandling by focusing on a “Santa Barbara Cares” message to inform people that supporting panhandling actually keeps people on the street;
- Distribute educational materials via locations such as area hotels, restaurants, businesses, City water bills, on City TV, and Downtown Organization Hosts;
- Utilize donation boxes in participating businesses and hotels and/or boxes or refurbished parking meters on select sidewalks on State Street;
- Utilize City Redevelopment Agency funds to help support the campaign in initial years.

Issues: The business representatives at the panhandling task group meetings expressed their willingness to participate in a panhandling campaign and alternative giving program. However, there was reluctance from these representatives to be in the lead on these campaigns, due to potential negative

impacts on their businesses. A comprehensive panhandling campaign and alternative giving program will not be effective without the direct involvement of the businesses and hotels on State Street, Cabrillo Boulevard and Milpas Street.

Work in Progress: A summary of panhandling campaigns and alternate giving programs from other jurisdictions has been compiled for easy reference and follow-up.

Recommendation #12: Continue looking for opportunities to assist with **affordable housing projects**, especially those involving permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals.

- Continue to utilize Redevelopment Agency set aside funds and HOME funds for the acquisition, rehabilitation and/or construction of affordable housing;
- Work with affordable housing developers to design and implement projects;
- Help Bringing our Community Home (the *10-Year Plan*) to secure master leasing funds.

Issues: Funding available for affordable housing in the City is limited.

Work in Progress: The City is and has been supporting the development of affordable housing for its residents for many years. The City is currently providing approximately \$13.5 million for projects in the pipeline. These include the Mental Health Association project on Garden Street; Transition House's Moms property; Housing Authority's Artisan Court project on Cota and Olive and Housing Authority's property on Bath Street. There are approximately 164 new units in the pipeline, 53 to 71 of which are for homeless persons.