

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA, URGING THE COUNTY OF ORANGE  
AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO  
PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO THE HOMELESS

WHEREAS, homelessness is one of the most pervasive challenges facing cities throughout California; and

WHEREAS, many homeless in Orange County congregate in the central and northern cities of Orange County, especially in those cities where services are provided, including overnight shelters such as the Armory in the City of Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the County of Orange adopted a ten-year action plan to end homelessness, and yet the homeless population has significantly increased in the County since 2008; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, the County of Orange has received millions of dollars in homeless assistance funding to include Mental Health Services Act funding; and

WHEREAS, cities have land use control at the local level, while funding for necessary homeless solutions primarily originates at the State and County level, therefore creating the need for a high level of cooperation, communication, and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fullerton has worked cooperatively with the County of Orange toward providing homeless services at the Bridges at Kraemer Place and the Fullerton Armory, has provided for the production of over 1,500 current affordable housing units in the City, and has funded the construction of 150 more units through a City initiated housing bond, in an effort to provide affordable housing options and to move homeless individuals from the streets of Fullerton to permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, displacement of homeless encampments in the Santa Ana Riverbed and Santa Ana Civic Center has created an urgent need to both create emergency shelters throughout the County and permanent supportive housing units to provide viable housing options; and

WHEREAS, while the City of Fullerton provides several full-time staff people to respond to issues regarding the homeless, the City does not have the expertise nor the funding to address those homeless individuals suffering from mental health and substance abuse issues; and

WHEREAS, the Fullerton Police Department has increasingly responded to calls for service related to homeless individuals, with 2,125 in 2012, increasing to 6,749 in 2017; and

WHEREAS, a recent incident involving a homeless individual with mental health challenges has caused community members to speak out about their experiences with homeless individuals and highlighted the need for increased mental health services; and

WHEREAS, those homeless individuals with mental illness are routinely returned to the streets without proper long-term care,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Fullerton City Council does hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. The challenge of confronting homelessness requires the active engagement and leadership of all levels of government, including all Orange County Cities, and the County of Orange.

Section 2. The City Council requests that the County of Orange take immediate action to make available all mental health funding opportunities for services and housing of which all Orange County cities may participate to collaboratively work towards permanently housing homeless individuals and providing those with mental illness and addictions the care they need.

ADOPTED BY THE FULLERTON CITY COUNCIL on May 1, 2018.

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Douglas B. Chaffee, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lucinda Williams, City Clerk

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Date