

5

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#21

Tuesday,
September 27, 2022

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

From: Nyce, Kate
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:33 AM
To: FGG, Public Comment
Cc: Coyne, Joshua
Subject: Letter of Support for Item 21
Attachments: Letter of Support - Public Health Crisis of Homelessness - Father Joe's Villages.pdf

Hi,
I am attaching a letter in support of Item 21 for Tuesday's Board Meeting.
Best regards,
Kate



Kate Nyce (she/her)
Special Projects Advisor
Office of Vice Chair Nora Vargas | County Supervisor, First District
1600 Pacific Highway, STE 335, San Diego, CA 92101

Direct: 619.531.5664 | Mobile: 619.913.3233 | Office: 619.531.5511
Website: www.SupervisorNoraVargas.com
E-Mail: Kate.Nyce@sdcounty.ca.gov



"Building Healthier and Stronger Communities"



Deacon Jim F. Vargas, OFS
President & CEO

p. 619.446.2151
f. 619.446.2129
DeaconJim@neighbor.org

September 27, 2022

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Letter of Support for Declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis (Item 21)

Dear Chair Fletcher, Vice Chair Vargas, and Honorable Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Father Joe's Villages, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for declaring homelessness a public health crisis. This is an opportunity to send a clear message that our region is united and committed to finding solutions. As we continue to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to prevent and end homelessness, we are focusing on the health and wellness of our unhoused community as well as that of the broader community. At Father Joe's Villages, we are committed to supporting policies that help support ending homelessness. We strongly support, declaring homelessness a public health crisis and the specific and measurable action items that are presented in the Board Letter.

Under the leadership of the Board of Supervisors and the County's Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, the County has demonstrated its dedication to addressing homelessness with an emphasis on the social determinants of health and with the goal of improving the health of people experiencing homelessness. Declaring homelessness a public health crisis will advance the priority of solving homelessness in the region and will allow our local agencies to collaborate and implement innovative strategies. Moreover, the call for continued assessment of County programs, paired with a plan for implementing the County's bold policies, such as supporting efforts to minimize disruptions in public health benefits when people experience life disruptions and 24-hour access to trained professionals who can help with housing options and other services, will result in meaningful progress in helping prevent and end homelessness.

There is significant overlap between having a home and one's health. Housing is a key social determinant of health. Stable housing improves the well-being of people and communities. Homelessness is an unacceptable crisis across the San Diego region. It is a traumatic for those experiencing it and can exacerbate serious health conditions or make a person susceptible to new conditions. There is also a strong connection between the

3350 E Street
San Diego, CA 92102

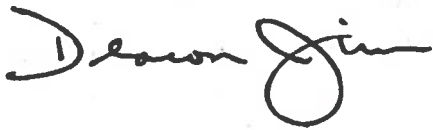
neighbor.org

wellbeing of the community and homelessness. Our communities thrive when our workers feel safe and families want to live and play in our neighborhoods.

Together we can solve the crisis of homelessness, but we must move out of disciplinary and jurisdictional silos to collaborate and work as partners with measurable goals. The declaration of a public health crisis is a key step to drive further collaboration between our local jurisdictions, community organizations, health care professionals, and others to develop resources and a comprehensive approach.

Father Joe's Villages is honored to stand with Vice Chair Vargas and Chair Fletcher in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deacon Jim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

From: Nyce, Kate
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:43 AM
To: FGG, Public Comment
Cc: Coyne, Joshua
Subject: Letter of Support for Item 21
Attachments: 20220927 Ltr to County Supervisors on Homelessness.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,
I am attaching a letter in support of Item 21 for today's Board Meeting.
Best regards,
Kate



Kate Nyce (she/her)
Special Projects Advisor
Office of Vice Chair Nora Vargas | County Supervisor, First District
1600 Pacific Highway, STE 335, San Diego, CA 92101

Direct: 619.531.5664 | Mobile: 619.913.3233 | Office: 619.531.5511
Website: www.SupervisorNoraVargas.com
E-Mail: Kate.Nyce@sdcounty.ca.gov



"Building Healthier and Stronger Communities"



Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 335
San Diego, CA 92101
27 September 2022
[Delivered electronically]

Re: Letter of Support for Declaring Homelessness a Public Health Crisis (Item 21)

Dear Chair Fletcher, Vice Chair Vargas, and Honorable Board of Supervisors:

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association is encouraged by your action today to declare homelessness a public health crisis. Significant coordinating activity must occur across jurisdictions and policy areas – housing, physical health, mental health, etc. – so that we can functionally end homelessness.

Our region's homelessness crisis is a long-standing area of concern for the San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA) and our research arm, the San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation (SDTEF):

- In 2019, SDTEF released a study entitled, ["Homelessness Expenditure in the San Diego Region."](#) We learned through this study that the lack of data and consistent measurement precludes the ability to determine if increased expenditures have resulted in reduced homelessness.
- In 2020, SDCTA [endorsed the City of San Diego's Measure A](#), authority to issue \$900M in general obligation bonds for low-income housing, because the SDCTA assessed that taxpayer costs to build much-needed housing would prevent the significant costs to the taxpayers when attempting to address homelessness.
- In 2021, SDCTA established a working group to begin assessing the work completed by the various public agencies in our region in homelessness services. We learned through this working group that "success" is defined differently across agencies, and the complexities in the "safety net" make for very difficult apples-to-apples comparisons. SDCTA developed **an internal report** to guide SDTEF in conducting a thorough review of all contracts with quantifying methods so that meaningful comparisons of effectiveness and efficiencies could eventually be made. This review is currently in progress because of the number of contracts to be reviewed and the inconsistencies across agencies in defining performance.
- In 2022, SDTEF established and launched the new [Public Regional Outcomes Standards Board \(PROS Board\)](#) to develop regionally-accepted non-financial accounting and reporting principles on public good performance (PROS Board is akin to how the Financial Accounting Standards Board develops generally accepted accounting principles). The first public good area of focus has been homelessness services, and significant regional collaboration has been underway since April 2022. The PROS Board expects to issue a body of regionally-accepted rules by the end of the calendar year, and



this work aims to create trust in the performance reporting and accounting, something that is missing in our region but when achieved, will permit fair apples-to-apples comparisons, not only by SDCTA but also by any public or private funder who may want to evaluate performance.

We are also encouraged by your recent establishment of the Chief Evaluation Officer and the Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics. We also request, on behalf of the SDTEF, that a member of the new PROS Board be a part of your advisory body to this new office. The work of the Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics will benefit from and be enhanced by the regionally-accepted non-financial accounting and reporting principles on public good performance developed by the PROS Board.

We stand ready to work with the County and all stakeholders, including the private sector, to advance the day when our region functionally ends homelessness.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Haney D. Hong", written over a horizontal line.

Haney D. Hong
President & CEO