



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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2014 NOV 25 PM 12 05

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92161 CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** December 2, 2014

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** SOLICITING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ANNUAL POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT (DISTRICTS: ALL)

#### Overview

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continuums of Care (CoC) conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered or unsheltered on a single night in January each year. In San Diego, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) leads a collaboration of community partners and volunteers in conducting this point-in-time count, better known as *WeALLCount*. Communities across the nation will be conducting similar events during the last 10 days of January.

Though the figures that come out of this count are used to apply for federal funding, this survey also enables the region to gain a better understanding of the scope, impact and potential solutions to address this issue. The numbers from this count are broken down into subpopulation categories including counts of persons who are chronically homeless, persons with severe mental illness, chronic substance abusers, veterans, persons with HIV/AIDS, and victims of domestic violence.

Each count is planned, coordinated, and requires many volunteers to accurately gauge the homeless population across the San Diego region. Last year, 1,356 volunteers led a point-in-time count through the RTFH that numbered 8,506 homeless persons in our region. More than 400 County employees volunteered for the event. The County's involvement in 2014 helped increase volunteer participation by 456 people from 2013. An increased number of volunteers ensures that the region will obtain a more accurate estimate of the homeless population.

Thankfully, our County employees have always come forward in the spirit of volunteerism, whether manning the polls during elections or in their charitable giving. It is our expectation that County employees will once again step forward as volunteers in this effort to identify the extent of this critical issue. The count will take place from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. on Friday, January 23, 2015.

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**Recommendation(s)**

**SUPERVISOR GREG COX AND SUPERVISOR RON ROBERTS**

1. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to establish a volunteer program to allow County employees to participate in the annual point-in-time count on January 23, 2015 on paid County time.
2. Find that allowing County employees to volunteer to participate in the annual point-in-time count on paid County time serves a public benefit by ensuring the region's homelessness can be quantified and federal funding can be secured to address the region's homeless population.

**Fiscal Impact**

Funding associated with today's recommendations is included in the CAO's Fiscal Year 2014-15 Adopted Budget. The actual costs will be determined by the classification of employees who choose to volunteer. The funding source is a combination of general purpose revenues and program revenues. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**Background**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continuums of Care (CoC) conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered or unsheltered on a single night in January each year. In San Diego, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) leads a collaboration of community partners and volunteers in conducting this point-in-time count, better known as *WeALLCount*. Communities across the nation will be conducting similar events during the last 10 days of January.

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employees volunteered for the event. The County's involvement in 2014 helped increase volunteer participation by 456 people from 2013. An increased number of volunteers ensures that the region will obtain a more accurate estimate of the homeless population.

The count will take place from 4 am. to 7 a.m. on Friday, January 23, 2015. Volunteers will deploy across the region in teams of two and three. Census tract maps will be used to record the number of homeless persons they see. The RTFH will review the maps to ensure accuracy and will record and analyze the data collected. Demographic data for those who are unsheltered is derived from follow-up interviews administered by trained volunteers. Interviews will be conducted January 23-28, 2015, throughout the region.

In addition to counting those who are unsheltered, the RTFH will compile a count of people who sleep in the region's homeless shelters on the night of January 22, 2015. Demographic data regarding those sheltered is derived from the region's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which is administered by the RTFH. This data, along with an assessment of the shelter bed capacity for the region, is used to evaluate the unmet needs of the homeless population in the region. Once completed, the analysis is reported to HUD and used, along with point-in-time count data from communities across the country, to produce the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) for Congress.

It is the intent to allow County employees the opportunity to participate in this program during paid County time.

County employees have always come forward in the spirit of volunteerism, whether manning the polls during elections or in their charitable giving. It is our expectation that County employees will once again step forward as volunteers in this effort to identify the extent of this critical issue.

We urge your support for the recommendations in this letter.

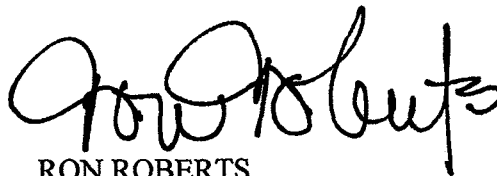
**Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan**

These recommendations would help accomplish the County's Strategic Initiatives and advance the County's Vision of providing a safe, healthy and thriving community for all our residents.

Respectfully submitted,



GREG COX  
Supervisor, First District



RON ROBERTS  
Supervisor, Fourth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**        Yes      No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**  
   Yes      No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**  
N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**  
N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**  
N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Supervisor Greg Cox and Supervisor Ron Roberts

**OTHER CONCURRENCES(S):**   N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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