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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: December 3, 2013

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM FOR THE ANNUAL POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT (DISTRICTS: ALL)

SUMMARY

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. Locally, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) is charged with leading community partners and volunteers in conducting this point-in-time count, better known as *WeALLCount*, as well as analyzing and publishing the data. Communities across the country will be conducting similar events during the last 10 days of January.

Although the figures that come out of this count are used to apply for federal funding, this survey also enables us to gain a better understanding of the scope, impact and potential solutions to address homelessness. 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, with more than 900 volunteers, the RTFH led a point-in-time count that uncovered 8,879 homeless persons in our region. This year more volunteers are needed to ensure we get a proper estimate of this at-risk population.

Thankfully, our County employees have always stepped forward in the spirit of volunteerism, whether manning the polls during elections or in their charitable giving. It is our hope now that County employees will once again come forward as volunteers in this effort to identify the extent of this critical issue. The count will take place from 4am–7am on Friday, January 24, 2014.

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Recommendation(s)

CHAIRMAN 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 24, 2014 on County time.
- 2) Find that allowing County employees to volunteer to participate in the annual point-in-time count on 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 the recommendations is included in the CAO's Fiscal Year 2013-14 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.

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. The San Diego Regional CoC consists of representatives from the County of San Diego, the 18 cities within the county, nonprofit service providers and other interested parties. Locally, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) is charged with leading community partners and volunteers in conducting this point-in-time count, better known as *WeALLCount*, as well as analyzing and publishing the data. Communities across the country will be conducting similar events during the last 10 days of January.

Although the figures that come out of this count are used to apply for federal funding, this survey also enables us to gain a better understanding of the scope, impact and potential solutions to address homelessness. 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.

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The count will take place from 4am-7am on Friday, January 24, 2014. Volunteers will deploy across the county 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 and other pertinent information to assess the

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vulnerability and level of needs of those who are unsheltered is derived from follow-up interviews administered by trained volunteers. These interviews will be conducted January 24–26, 2014 throughout San Diego County.

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 23, 2014. 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 need in the county. 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 intended that County employees have the opportunity to volunteer to participate in this program on County time. All employee organizations will be notified of this program and will be given the opportunity to meet and confer with the County.

County employees have always stepped forward in the spirit of volunteerism, whether manning the polls during elections or in their charitable giving. It is our hope now that County employees will once again come forward to join us in volunteering in this effort to identify the extent of this critical issue.

We urge your support for the recommendations in this letter.

Respectfully submitted,


GREG COX
Chairman, First District


RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

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.

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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: Districts 1 and 4

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

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