



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: February 1, 2022

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Chanel Ovalle, Community Development Program Manager
c_ovalle@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Approval of Response to the 2021 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report – “Keys to Housing the Homeless in Santa Barbara County”

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council review the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) report entitled “Keys to Housing the Homeless in Santa Barbara County” (Attachment 1) and approve the proposed response letter presented on behalf of the City, pursuant to California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05 (Attachment 2).

Background:

Each year, the Grand Jury surveys various operations involving governmental services provided for the benefit of the residents of the County of Santa Barbara (County). The 2021 Grand Jury selected “Keys to Housing Homeless in Santa Barbara County” as an area of focus. The 2021 Grand Jury provided a report with recommendations for municipal agencies in the County, the County itself, and the eight incorporated cities in the County.

The City received the 2021 Grand Jury report, “Keys to Housing Homeless in Santa Barbara County”, on November 19, 2021. The report indicates that the COVID-19 virus increased the need for homeless services, highlighting the dire conditions for a subset of the unhoused population who were especially at risk of contracting the virus. The County needed to determine the best way to protect the homeless. Two programs were created by the state with generous funding with Federal Emergency Management Agency and Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act funding: Project Roomkey and Project Homekey, which are described in more detail in the Grand Jury Report (Attachment 1).

All jurisdictions noticed in the Grand Jury Report must file a response to the findings and recommendations pursuant to the above-referenced California Penal Code sections within 90 days of receipt of the report or no later than February 19, 2022. The Grand Jury Report included a total of four findings and four recommendations. The City is required

to respond to the enumerated findings and recommendations specific to Lompoc, listed on page 10 of the Grand Jury Report.

Discussion:

The attached response to the Grand Jury identifies specific responses for each finding and each recommendation. Responses to the findings and recommendations meet the requirements of California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05.

Fiscal Impact:

The response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations does not have a fiscal impact to the City.

Conclusion:

After reviewing the 2021 Grand Jury Report and the attached proposed response letter presented, staff recommends the City Council approve the attached response letter and authorize the delivery of the response to the Grand Jury no later than February 19, 2022, in accordance with the Grand Jury instructions.

Respectfully submitted,

Chanel Ovalle, Community Development Program Manager

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:

Christie Alarcon, Community Development Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments: 1) 2021 Grand Jury Report “Keys to Housing the Homeless in Santa Barbara County”
2) City of Lompoc Response to the Grand Jury Report