

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BUENA PARK CITY COUNCIL
HELD FEBRUARY 12, 2019

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CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in a special meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Civic Center, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, California, Mayor Brown presiding.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Park, Smith, Swift, Traut, Brown
ABSENT: None

Also present were: Jim Vanderpool, City Manager; Chris Cardinale, City Attorney; Adria M. Jimenez, MMC, City Clerk; Corey Sianez, Chief of Police; Patti Long, Mercy House; Joel Rosen, Community Development Director; Ruben Lopez, Economic Development Administrator and, Matt Bates, CityNet

Mayor Brown stated that this meeting will be facilitated by Mr. Francisco Ortega, there will be a questions and answer session followed by oral communication then city council comments.

TOWN HALL MEETING – PROPOSED HOMELESS NAVIGATION CENTER
(7101 LINCOLN AVENUE, BUENA PARK)

Mr. Francisco Ortega introduced himself, welcomed and thanked the audience for attending this meeting. Housekeeping items were announced and included following meeting agreements to have a civil engagement. It was requested that the audience respect this community meeting which is structured as an informational session.

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

Mr. Ortega stated questions have been submitted on index cards. He will read each question and the questions will be answered by the panel.

Question/Statement: *A shelter should not be near schools, shopping centers and major traffic areas.*

Response: City Manager Vanderpool stated there is no perfect site for the proposed shelter. This site was selected based on numerous factors, particularly the homeless population in this area. Numerous properties were looked at but none met the needs to house a shelter. There was one other possible site located on Dale and Commonwealth, across the street from Fullerton Airport which appeared to fit all the needs. Among other things, the site was contaminated and in a high crash hazard zone, therefore this site was eliminated as a possible shelter site.

Question: *Did the City of Buena Park ensure that surrounding cities involved in this project didn't have an industrial site available before volunteering this site?*

Response: City Manager Vanderpool stated that the City Managers Working Group was tasked to work together to locate possible shelter sites. A number of sites were identified throughout the region. Out of this exercise, Placentia and Buena Park had sites that seem to fit the needs of the region.

Question/Statement: *Homeless shelters should be in an industrial area, not in a residential area. Crime rates will go up. This area has children, senior citizens, school district, etc.*

Response: Police Chief Sianez stated in conversations with other cities that have shelters, such as The Bridges at Kramer in Anaheim, there has not been an increase in crime rates. The

calls received by the Anaheim Police Department are for service to the shelter itself not the surrounding areas. These calls are typical tenants/domestic disputes. For the most part, crime rates around the shelters have not increased.

Question: *Is the city employing a street outreach engagement approach for those people languishing on the streets, becoming more and more debilitated and at risk to injury or death?*

Response: Mr. Bates, CityNet responded, since March of 2016, the City of Buena Park contracted with CityNet for the street outreach strategy to engage homeless neighbors to connect them with continual care services, particularly housing. Regarding long term cases, it's true there is a number of chronic long term homeless individuals in the city and as a provider CityNet continues to offer resources because there will come a time when those resources will be used. Over time individuals learn to trust us, city staff and law enforcement and they'll become open to engage services.

Question/Statement: *Homeless individuals are unlikely to come to a shelter.*

Response: Mr. Bates, CityNet responded, it's common for people to think of homeless individuals and categorize them as service resistant. As service providers, CityNet sees people willing to work to obtain housing. CityNet's experience has been that as additional resources become available it's more likely to make a connection. We keep trying and working with individuals and organizations to get people connected to resources. CityNet works closely with law enforcement; we offer the compassionate response but when it's paired with enforcement it works well.

There is coordination with the Buena Park Police Department to build trust and we see people become more receptive. There is a certain segment of the homeless population that doesn't want to be bothered.

City Attorney Cardinale reminded the public of the enforcement and compassionate approach. Due to case law in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, if a city does not provide enough beds to serve its unsheltered population, the city cannot enforce its anti-camping ordinance or other mechanisms that are otherwise available to law enforcement.

Ms. Long, Mercy House, stated as a shelter operator, when a shelter can coordinate with the system of care it is a great way to link homeless individuals to available housing. An individual may have difficulty navigating that process. The shelter can help facilitate that process and get individuals in to housing. Many facilities are able to house people who've been on the street for 20-30 years. The system can work; a shelter is a piece of that system that helps streamline the process.

Question: *There is an affordable housing crisis now; how will homeless individuals be placed in homes?*

Response: Ms. Long, Mercy House, there is a lack of affordable housing; there is a lot of effort targeting this issue in particular for those who are chronically homeless. When people come in to the shelter they have our staff work alongside them and create housing plans. We look at natural supports they may not be thinking about that may help them get back into housing. We help them rethink what natural supports might be available. We look at opportunities such as roommate situations or long term interventions through federally funded resources.

Question: *I understand city staff wants to move forward on proposal and close escrow on this property. What about a delay in this process to consider sites with proximity to City Hall?*

Response: City Manager Vanderpool stated that the City recognizes there's criticism of how fast the City secured this location. First and foremost, when the riverbed in Anaheim was cleaned up the County of Orange scrambled to house those displaced, and many of those individuals were relocated to a number of areas in Orange County including Buena Park. The County was under a federal mandate to act. There were federal funds available managed through the County to deal with homeless emergency shelter services. North Orange County City Managers secured funding to address regional needs. A team of 13 cities had the opportunity to locate sites, and Buena Park and Placentia were identified as the best locations.

City Attorney Cardinale stated that there is data which references the last time CityNet surveyed the area. Buena Park has the highest number and highest percentage of unsheltered homeless. The shelters and the funding are being allocated to those who have a current need and lack of resources to help satisfy the need.

Question: *Was the property purchased?*

Response: City Manager Vanderpool responded, yes, the City had housing funds for low income housing. Those funds were allocated to buy that site and closed escrow. The intent was to use this site as an affordable housing site or possibly consider it for a homeless shelter.

Question: *This area has been ignored for so long. It has become the homeless corner; the concern is that once the shelter is in place, where will these people go after? Is there also intent for secondary housing?*

Response: City Manager Vanderpool stated this will be explored. There are no affordable housing funds coming from the state at this time. The best use of public tax dollars is to do the homeless shelter on this site and use other funds for permanent housing.

Joel Rosen, Community Development Director, stated the City is working with an affordable housing developer across town in a different location and working on converting existing buildings to permanent affordable housing. This is in the early stages, there are no plans, no proposals, and no concepts, but there are possibilities.

Comment: *Too many shelter beds and few available affordable housing units will limit the success of this navigation center if success is to house permanently a significant number of persons sleeping in the streets. Jurisdiction can use homelessness data to determine how many shelter beds are needed however this data can also determine how many housing units needed.*

Question/comment: *This part of the city has been ignored from a homeless standpoint for a long time. The problem is that it is West Anaheim's problem and yet we're taking on this burden. I don't see Anaheim doing their share to address the issue. Why are we taking on this burden?*

The City of Anaheim is a little behind in terms of building temporary shelters; however this is a regional issue, a shared responsibility.

Comment: *Why not address this issue in a bipartisan effort with Anaheim and Buena Park by leasing the abandoned Stater Bros. building since it is a large property? There are many homeless people in that area and this effort can address those issues.*

Response: City Attorney Cardinale stated that this is truly a regional effort. All the North Orange County communities are working together through a Memorandum of Understanding to share navigational centers. If a city is hosting a facility, there is a discount on how you're contributing financially to run the facility. This is a regional effort, a reciprocal approach in sharing resources of housing and supportive efforts.

Comment: *The shopping centers in this area are not properly maintained, they are run down. There are several shopping centers that could be nice if they were fixed up. Some clean up in this area would make a big difference for the whole city.*

Question/Comment: *It seems that information posted online concludes that the navigation center is already an approved project, why is there such a rush?*

Response: City Manager Vanderpool responded that there are options for this site. This site was purchased with affordable housing funds. The City can put an affordable housing project or a homeless shelter, but there is still a lot of public engagement before the City Council makes a final decision. The urgency is to provide shelter so that law enforcement can have resources in addressing the homelessness issue.

Question: *Are there other navigation centers in the State of California located within one hundred feet of a residential neighborhood?*

Response: City Attorney Cardinale stated under state law a homeless navigation center is considered residential use because it houses people.

City Manager Vanderpool stated that he had a conversation with the Superintendent of Centralia School District about the concept and proximity of the possible shelter to the school. She listened and did not provide an opinion, but the information was provided to her. So as it stands, it appears pedestrian patterns indicate that children would not be walking past this site.

Question: *What is the process for referring to a homeless person in the neighborhood? Do residents call the police? What do we do if they don't want to go to the shelter?*

Response: Police Chief Sianez stated that Homeless Liaison Officers work in collaboration with non-profits such as CityNet and Bright Paths to respond to calls relating to homeless services and help homeless people with assistance and resources, but about 35-40 percent of the homeless do not want assistance.

A program called the North Orange County Public Safety Task Force was created with state funding to address the homelessness problem from a regional standpoint. Prior to this program, most cities were handling homeless issues individually. The goal for this program is to collaborate with other agencies and address the problem from a regional perspective.

Question: *Will this Buena Park Shelter attract homeless people from other communities?*

Response: Police Chief Sianez stated that a shelter attracting people from surrounding areas is a myth. This type of shelter operates by reservation and referral only. Law enforcement collaborates with shelter operators to ensure levels of security, screening, and accountability.

Questions: *There are about five or six homeless people living at Lincoln and Knott. If these same five or six homeless people do not want to go to the shelter is there anything we can do?*

Response: City Attorney Cardinale stated that if the City has enough beds to house its unsheltered population the City can enforce the anti-camping ordinance. These people can either move on or we can site them. Currently, the City does not have enough beds, but once we do we can enforce the ordinance.

Question/Comment: *I want to clarify an earlier comment regarding the pedestrian patterns. I have grandchildren and many of my neighbors have grandchildren who walk that way every day.*

Question/Comment: *The statement made earlier about a shelter attracting homeless from surrounding areas being a myth is untrue.*

Response: Mr. Bates stated this facility and the others that exist are referral facilities and only serve the North Service Planning Area. In terms of numbers, it's true that Buena Park has approximately 98 homeless people according to the last survey, but the shelter is intended to serve as a regional shelter for the North Service Planning Area.

Question/Comment: *With all due respect we are not worried about our traffic; we are worried about the homeless traffic during the day when they are not sleeping at the facility. I have a granddaughter that goes to an elementary school that has a problem with homeless persons entering the school, and now they will be concentrated close to the school. My question is for the City Attorney, how binding is the Memorandum of Understanding?*

Response: City Attorney Cardinale responded that an MOU is a binding contract. It will be incorporated into the settlement agreement the judge signs in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals between the Cities and the County of Orange.

Question/Comment: *The proposed navigation center backs up to a home. Will the City consider no outside views from the back of the property?*

Response: Mr. Rosen stated operation plans have not been established for this proposed navigation center.

Question/Comment: *If the City has a shelter in place and there are 35-40 percent of homeless people that do not want to go to shelters, what then? What happens at that point?*

Response: Police Chief Sianez stated that if the City does not have enough beds to house its unsheltered population then we cannot enforce our anti-camping ordinance.

Ms. Long, stated typically when homeless neighbors get help, the people who know them and are also homeless see the positive results. They begin to open up to the idea of accepting help. She stated that her experience at Bridges at Kramer Place has been positive because they see the positive outcomes of helping people transition into permanent housing.

Question: *What happens to those who cannot transition to permanent housing?*

Response: Mr. Bates explained the goal of the shelter is intended to be a transition to permanent housing. As an outreach team we see that there is a better outcome for homeless people when they work with a shelter to transition out of homelessness. We help them navigate the system of housing, the system of care; we work together with case management and assist our homeless neighbors to get them off the street and returning public spaces to the people.

Question: *What happens if after 79 days, they aren't successful in transitioning to permanent housing, are they walking out of the shelter on to Lincoln and Knott?*

Response: In response to the question of what happens after 79 days; Ms. Long stated that her understanding is that the model for the proposed shelter is going to be similar to The Bridges at Kramer Place in Anaheim. In this model there is flexibility to extend stay beyond the length of stay limits, particularly for people with high needs. The goal of the shelter is to transition people into permanent housing. There will be some cases that aren't successful and some will end up back on the street but the majority of cases have positive outcomes. Moreover, Ms. Long stated that The Bridges at Kramer Place Shelter Management Plan has a 180 day stay limit imposed by the county, however the shelter operator has discretion to extend the time particularly for those cases that are close to transitioning to permanent housing. The 79 days mentioned is an average length of stay at Bridges for housing placements.

Question: *For over two decades there was a lot of retail and businesses around the area near the proposed homeless shelter, now many locations are empty or closed down. Many of those facilities are leased and it appears that property management has a different maintenance approach. What can be done to spur business in that area in conjunction with the proposed shelter center?*

Response: Mr. Rosen stated the city does code enforcement in that center and area quite a bit. Unfortunately, that does nothing to address the aesthetics and trash clean up of this area. The security system in place is ineffective and has been addressed with the property management. They will continue working with them to reinforce and address those inefficiencies. As for what can be done in conjunction with the center, similarly to The Bridges at Kramer shelter, that facility has 24-hour security onsite and active patrolling of the area.

Question: *What can be done to bring back commerce to the area?*

Response: City Manager Vanderpool stated he is leading the fight to bring redevelopment dollars back to California cities. In a recent meeting with Senators in Sacramento, Mr. Vanderpool stated cities need tools at the local level to be able to help communities revitalize and stimulate local economies. Unfortunately, since there are no redevelopment funds, funding from the state is allocated to public safety, senior citizens, park spaces, and many other services. In the past when redevelopment funds were available, the City had commercial building rehabilitation programs that were successful in addressing some of the problems mentioned.

Questions: *Police can't do their job if we don't build this shelter. What recourse do we have if a shelter doesn't work out? What can we do if there are problems? What recourse do we have if property values go down?*

Response: Mr. Ortega stated property values are a valid concern to all. He stated that property values in Southern California continue to rise, including in areas with high crime.

Question: *Twofold question: did the displacement of homeless people from the Santa Ana riverbed increase the homeless population in the City? Also, are there any other possible navigation sites being considered, what about the Anaheim General Hospital?*

Response: Police Chief Sianez stated the Santa Ana riverbed displacement increased the homeless population by 25 percent. There were approximately 100 people from the riverbed placed in area hotels. The shopping center on Knott and Lincoln attracts homeless people because there are vacant buildings. The City will dedicate resources to ensure that the navigation center is successful.

Question/Comment: *You are being duped; a navigation center is a shelter. I want to thank you for buying the property because there is a need for affordable housing. There is a new Salvation Army pop-up shelter in Anaheim. There is no need to purchase property; all you need is a vacant lot to set up a shelter. Why are we reinventing the wheel?*

Response: City Manager Vanderpool stated the Salvation Army Shelter in Anaheim is temporary while the permanent shelter is under construction. The direction from the County is to address the need from a regional perspective; cities collaborating instead of each city opening up their own shelters.

Question/Comment: *I recently visited the Kramer Place facility, it is in an industrial area, it's a nice building and it makes sense the way it was done. However, all the information pertains to that facility. From previous meetings and from what I am hearing, it will not work here. I don't feel comfortable because there are schools and residential areas near this site.*

Question/Comment: I live near Laurel Gate and my parents live near College Park. There are security concerns. We are seeing a lot more crime in the southeast quadrant. Is funding allocated for law enforcement?

Response: *Police Chief Sianez stated that with state funding, the Orange County Public Safety Task Force was created to address the homelessness problem from a regional standpoint. Currently, all the North Service Planning Area Cities and the Task Force collaborate and address homelessness concerns. As for the navigation center concerns, the police department will work together with the shelter operator to ensure security.*

Question/Comment: *First question: where is the shuttle taking homeless people? Second, what happens to those homeless people with drug and alcohol problems?*

Response: *Ms. Long, Mercy House stated the shelter operator together with the police department and city designate shuttle stop locations, additionally, when shelter residents leave the facility they are typically going to appointments for housing plan, personal appointment, etc. This system is an investment in resources and eliminates the need for people walking in and around the area.*

Question: More than likely you will not be hiring more officers, what about patrolling?

Response: *Police Chief Sianez stated if there are problems in the area, resources will be allocated to address the problem. Overall, crime is down by 8 percent in the City of Buena Park. If you are having a problem call and the problem will be addressed.*

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Susan Singleton, Buena Park resident spoke about her students and their families being unaware of a proposed shelter opening in the area. She expressed concern about her students being harassed by homeless people and stated her opposition of the proposed shelter.

Susan Sonne, Buena Park resident, stated that no one wants to see public spaces doubled as living quarters. Affordable housing is one of the greatest needs. Clarke Commons received 4,000 applications for 70 units. Most communities are resistant to shelters because of fears of crime and decrease in property values, but there is no evidence to support these fears. She'd like to see a community board with the authority to receive complaints from shelter clients and community members to provide appropriate care with dignity and in a safe environment.

Steve Elliott, Buena Park resident, stated a shelter will be here long after the City Council is gone. The problem will continue to grow. He expressed his opposition of the proposed shelter.

Esther Miller, Buena Park resident, stated she understands there are a lot of problems and we need to take care of people less fortunate than us. Her concern is that the surrounding properties need upgrading, property owners need to be held accountable.

Don Barrett, Buena Park resident, thanked the City Council and staff for the sense of urgency. He stated this area has been neglected for over 25-years; something needs to be done to allocate resources to redeveloping this area. He stated that a homeless shelter will not resolve all the problems in this area.

Dave De Rosa, Buena Park resident, stated his concerns about crime incidents and stated his opposition of the proposed shelter.

Bob Carey, Buena Park resident, stated his property backs up to the proposed navigation center. He stated that the problem needs to be addressed and that with a navigation center at least the homeless will be in one location.

Shannon Zimmer, Buena Park resident, thanked the City Council for having informational meetings. She stated that homeless people are people in need of help. She stated her support of a navigation center because there will be more security and it will make the City safer.

Buena Park resident (no name provided), stated concerns over decrease in property values and the increase in crime the navigation center will attract. She also requested information about where the shuttle drop off and pick up locations will be. Lastly, she suggested more public outreach efforts as her neighbors were unaware of the proposed shelter.

Buena Park resident (no name provided), stated she spoke with hundreds of Buena Park residents who conveyed their concerns and opposition over a shelter in Buena Park. The major concern is that once the shelter is at capacity the City will again be unable to enforce its anti-camping ordinance. She stated Buena Park does not have the police force to handle the regional homeless population.

Paul Alvarado, Buena Park resident, expressed his concerns on how this transaction puts residents in a bind. As city representatives, the City Council needs to represent the residents. He stated his opposition on the proposed navigation center and asked the City Council to resolve this issue.

Art Montez, Centralia School Board Member Trustee, stated his concerns over what appears as a lack of conceptual forethought on the site, best practices, and funding oversight. He urged the City Council to look out for the health and safety for the children.

Buena Park resident (no name provided), stated her concern over the proposed navigation center. She stated the City has not done its due diligence in locating another site for a navigation center. She stated that the City does need a shelter just not at that location.

Kim Piccola, Buena Park resident stated her concern over the proposed shelter. She stated the homeless can be helped without affecting the values of properties. She stated her concerns over other cities not stepping in to deal with the regional issue. Lastly, she mentioned that all shelters mentioned as comparison are in industrial areas, this proposed site is in residential area.

Jacquelyn Marley, Buena Park resident, mentioned she lives in the Westchester area which is not the most amazingly expensive area of town. She stated her support of a navigation center because it will help people.

Georgia Ruthetella, Buena Park resident, stated her concerns about the area where all the stores have closed. She also stated her concerns over small children being exposed to many of the homeless people using public bathrooms to wash themselves.

Buena Park resident (no name provided) stated his concerns over the shelter as his home is 200 meters from the proposed site. He asked the City Council to let the people of Buena Park decide, via a vote.

Melissa Eng, Buena Park resident, expressed her concern over the City Council rushing to spend funding on a regional shelter. She also stated her concern over the shelter and affordable housing.

Jason Lao, Buena Park resident, stated he is concerned about property values; and his concern over the City moving so fast at the expense of the residents.

Rebecca Kovacs, Buena Park resident, stated the possibility of a Plan B. She suggested the City should look into pop up shelters with modular units; shelters do not need to be built in perpetuity.

Amber Cervantes, Buena Park resident, stated she came today so the City Council could see the faces of the children who walk down Knott Avenue. She urged the City Council to make the right decision for the next generation.

Linda Schoals, Buena Park resident, stated she lives ½ mile from the proposed navigation center. She stated there are homeless people walking in her neighborhood and breaking into cars in that area. She doesn't think having a shelter this close to schools and homes is a safe choice for the children and residents of Buena Park.

Aledima Patel, Buena Park resident stated she purchased a property near the proposed homeless shelter. She stated she worries about her safety and property values if a shelter is approved and built in the area.

Cecilia Lucatero, Buena Park resident, stated she visited the shelter in Anaheim and was saddened to see that there were homeless people outside the shelter. Inside the shelter she observed the security guards were older and falling asleep. She is concerned as her son is a student at Centralia Elementary School. Her children and neighborhood children walk the route near the proposed navigation shelter. She stated she is not against a shelter; she is just concerned about the location of this proposed site.

Justina Nunez, Buena Park resident, expressed her concern over the possible shelter site being in a residential area. She also stated her concern over the residents of the proposed navigation center, she questioned the possible criminals who will be excluded from the shelter and remain on the streets. She urged that the City Council look at industrial locations or another location that is not in a residential area.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Traut stated his concern over emergency calls routed to Buena Park dispatch when incidents happen in Anaheim since the proposed shelter is located between the two jurisdictions. He stated he is concerned that time would be wasted in emergency scenarios. Police Chief Sianez responded that dispatch operators are trained to ask specific questions to determine the response necessary for responding to emergency calls. Operators determine the need and dispatch emergency crews, police, paramedic, fire, etc. If the need is across the street in another city, dispatchers will communicate with the other city's emergency dispatch center. Police agencies have mutual aid agreements in place with surrounding cities to be able to handle emergency calls in scenarios such as this one.

Council Member Traut stated that after touring other shelters, 24-hour security was not in place for the surrounding areas. He stated that for the possible shelter site, 24-hour security should be in place to patrol the surrounding neighborhoods. City Attorney Cardinale stated City Council has the authority to approve the operating plan for the shelter, including the security measures and plans.

Council Member Traut asked about effects of the residential property values in the surrounding areas near the proposed shelter. City Manager Vanderpool stated he did not have the answer but would do research and have a response ready for the next City Council meeting.

Council Member Traut stated he favors a possible shelter site in an industrial area. Since there are no sites for sale he inquired about the possibility to search for a site to lease until there are properties for sale. City Manager Vanderpool stated that it all comes down to funding. The funding source available right now is for regional emergency housing for homeless.

Council Member Traut questioned the source of funding, asked if funding source is available only for the purchase of a property. City Manager Vanderpool explained that he will inquire with the county regarding the possibilities of leasing a property for the shelter; however, even if that is a possibility there are no available sites to lease.

Council Member Traut requested information on the medical services that will be offered to homeless people at the shelter. He recommended exploring KCS, a federally funded medical service. City Manager Vanderpool responded first aid will be administered onsite, anything beyond that will be referred to local hospitals.

Council Member Traut inquired about mental health services. Police Chief Sianez stated that the Kramer facility offers medical services that come to the shelter several times a week.

Council Member Traut stated that Anaheim is getting closer to enforcing their anti-camping ordinance. Buena Park will continue to work to help the less fortunate. The possible shelter site is not the best location, but the City will continue searching for an alternative location. He stated his support for a shelter in Buena Park because it's the right thing to do. This is step one for permanent supportive housing and affordable housing. He thanked the community for voicing their concerns and speaking out tonight.

Council Member Swift requested clarification regarding Mercy House. She inquired about decisions regarding Mercy House or any other proposed shelter operator. To her recollection the City has not decided on a shelter operator. City Manager Vanderpool responded that she is correct. The City has not decided on a shelter operator.

Council Member Swift asked what has Mercy House done other than being here tonight? Also, is Illumination Foundation operating a shelter in the City? City Manager Vanderpool responded that Mercy House is the operator for the Kramer facility. The City is looking at modeling the potential navigation center here in Buena Park similarly to the Kramer facility; therefore, it made sense to bring in Mercy House so they can provide answers as we navigate this process. As for Illumination Foundation, they operate the Coral Motel.

Council Member Swift expressed concerns regarding the comments made about debris in and around the Coral Motel. She inquired with Chief Sianez regarding the problems associated with this issue. Police Chief Sianez stated the City had no input regarding the opening of that shelter. The County made arrangements with Illumination Foundation as the service provider. The City has met with Illumination Foundation and addressed some of the concerns. Community Development Director Rosen added that the contract with Illumination Foundation is a short term contract and that location is only a temporary shelter. City Manager Vanderpool stated that the City would not recommend that model for the proposed site. Economic Development Administrator Ruben Lopez added that City Council approved allocation of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds to Mercy House for programs at The Bridges at Kramer facility. These funds are received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for public services.

Council Member Swift commented that there are several low income housing projects in Buena Park. These projects have been successful; however she emphasized that the City does not provide homes. She stated she is proud of what has been done in the past. The City hired a consultant to address some of the concerns regarding homelessness. The consultant advised the City to hire two police officers dedicated to homelessness. They also advised the City to hire a provider to do the outreach, so CityNet was hired. She also recognized Mayor Brown for his leadership on the homeless situation. She addressed the public and stated that if they see a homeless person acting inappropriately or illegally, call the police. The police can't address the situation unless they know about it. Lastly, she addressed an earlier comment about her residence. She stated she lives near a motel used to house people displaced from the riverbed. She noted seeing people in her neighborhood that seem to be financially disadvantaged; however, they were just out walking their dog. They didn't bother her or her home. She stated not all homeless people are criminals and not all have mental illnesses. She thanked everyone for coming today, listening and said she'd appreciate everyone praying about this topic because it's a difficult subject.

Council Member Park thanked City Staff and residents for coming out and being patient. She requested clarification on two items: First, the pedestrian walking patterns on Lincoln Avenue due to inconsistent information both from the public and staff. Second, what are the options or next steps after the 180 days? Lastly, after hearing everyone she suggested a homeless committee consisting of residents, professionals, and experts.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated he is a long term resident of the City of Buena Park and he lives in District 3. He stated that trying to come to a conclusion is rough. Acquiring this building is a stepping stone to ensure getting funds for a shelter or affordable housing. Once this is accomplished, the City can enforce anti-camping laws. When looking at properties, the City found there were no available properties to satisfy the need. The city does not have redevelopment funds to address the issues with some of the shopping centers in the area. Everyone has to work together, if we open the shelter it will bring in money. He stated he loves this City and that everyone needs to stick together and give input. He thanked everyone for being at tonight's meeting.

Mayor Brown clarified a couple of misconceptions. First the question, how will the shelter be operated? That is yet to be determined; a decision has not been made. When the property was purchased the options were affordable housing or a navigation center. He stated that these meetings help the City Council reach decisions. Some of the questions cannot be answered because the City does not know what it's going to do yet. A gentleman inquired about the homeless liaison officers. That program was started back in November 2015. He stated citywide efforts have to be made in order to address the homeless situation. It is everyone's responsibility. As far as mental health issues, he stated that the County of Orange announced they are giving \$16.6 million dollars to open a mental health clinic in the City of Orange, to be run by the former CEO of Hope Hospital in Newport Beach. As for homeless people living at

The Kramer facility, if they have mental health illnesses they are referred to mental health professionals. If their illness is alcoholism, they are referred to alcoholism professionals. He stated he hopes the City makes the right decision, but no matter the decision some people will be unhappy. He requested the City Manager provide information and answers for all unanswered questions. If there is enough input there may be a determination on March 26, 2019. Lastly, if you receive a notice from the City, do not discard it. Open it and read it. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk