

IRVINE FOR EVERYONE

The mission of Irvine for Everyone is to form a group of Irvine residents supporting the creation of a full spectrum of housing in Irvine.

The time has come for Irvine to act as a County leader in taking on its fair share of responsibility for Orange County's ongoing homelessness crisis. Historically, Irvine has avoided addressing the root of problem; housing. In the late 1980s, the City turned down a HUD grant to build an emergency shelter despite the City's own research supporting a need with approximately 400 people, including 30 to 40 families, utilizing the meager County resources with a last known address in Irvine.

In 2012, the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. However, many aspects of the plan were never implemented and the plan was ultimately abandoned when Susan Price, Director of Care Coordination, published the Assessment of Homeless Services in Orange County in 2016. At the Association of California Cities – Orange County Homelessness Taskforce Meetings that began in 2016 with support of the County, Irvine was frequently absent from meetings calling on City Leaders to take action to collaboratively address the growing countywide issue.

A key aspect in the collaborative approach being proposed and discussed at these meeting was the need to divide Orange County into three Service Planning Areas (SPAs); Northern, Central, and Southern. The idea being that to tackle the larger issue, and prevent homelessness from concentrating in our communities, Orange County's 34 cities can work together to share resources and responsibility.

In October 2016, after the Santa Ana Civic Center was declared a public health crisis, the City of Santa Ana was sited for the County's first year-round emergency shelter. Opening The Courtyard in 28-days with a capacity of 400. In April 2017, with a growing Riverbed population, Anaheim opened the County's first year-round transitional shelter with an initial capacity of 100, plans to double, and a multi-service center onsite. But despite these shelter beds available, we can all clearly see it is not enough for the number of people on our streets.

On April 3rd 2018, Federal Judge David O. Carter made it clear to Irvine Mayor Don Wagner that he needs Irvine to set an example for leadership in Orange County and in response, Mayor Wagner pledged to, "do everything I can." Fortunately, the County owned land in Irvine across from the OC Great Park is zoned for an emergency shelter and we as Irvine residents have the opportunity to create a community-focused project that represents the Irvine we know and love.

On April 19th, Mayor Wagner will meet with the South Orange County Mayors Association at their regular meeting; the only item on their agenda is the site for the emergency shelter. What we are asking from Mayor Wagner is to act as the courageous man Irvine elected and the leader our community needs. Approve this site and take on the opportunity to build a world class integrated housing campus with wrap around services and onsite resources provided in collaboration with the existing network of amazing local nonprofits. We got you!

Thanks for signing on,

Anita Coleman & Wendy Williams, April 15, 2018, Irvine, CA