

SNA Meeting – March 8, 2023

Live meeting – Sea Aire

City of Torrance guest speakers

1. Announcements:
 - a. Board members and their jobs.
 - b. City logo contest
 - c. Heroes park beautification
2. Viet from the City of Torrance – Homelessness Issues
 - a. Martin v Boise – US Circuit Court of Appeals for 9th Circuit prohibit camping/ sleeping in public space “when no sleeping space is practically available in any shelter” 2019
 - b. Supreme court declines to hear the matter
 - c. Homeless Count: Fourth Wednesday of each January. The count has gone up every year since 2015. The count in 2020 was 322 people. In 2022, the number decreased to 306 (a 5% decrease). This may be due to a new app and not actual
 - d. Annual toiletry drive: March
 - i. Harbor Interfaith, 1736, and family promise are the recipients
 - e. Annual Back 2 School drive with TUSD: July – August
 - i. Approximately 200 kids are homeless in the Torrance School District
 - f. Veterans Appreciation Annual Event: In-Person (October), Virtual (November)
 - i. Twenty Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers are offered “VASH Vouchers”
 - g. 2021 was the first year outreach programs were formed “Street Outreach”
 - i. Mental Health support, Doctors, housing
 - ii. Encampment & community clean up: 3290 Temporary Housing Village – Operated by Harbor Interfaith. Consisting of 40 units. Funding is through

the City by means of grants, donations, and State help. There are beds, showers, and security.

1. 1-40 years of homelessness were found. Bad credit/no credit, some without IDs, evictions
2. The goal is to find jobs and help with other housing

h. Achievements since opening:

- i. One individual is in a higher level of (mental health) care
- ii. One received a Section 8 voucher and got a job
- iii. Three individuals were reunited with family
- iv. 8 individuals to permanent supportive housing (Westhaven Los Angeles – comes with case management)
- v. One VASH Voucher - needs housing to become available
- vi. One individual confirmed to Westhaven
- vii. One individual approved for Section 8

3. For unhoused outside of Torrance: WWW.LA-HOP.org
4. For unhoused in Torrance: text or call Valerie Hernandez at 310-803-3390 or VHernandez@TorranceCA.gov
5. Other sites are in the works to add more sites. Soil tests and deed restrictions are being looked into. This could take 12-18 months.
6. 12 individuals have exited the housing either by their own means or not following the rules. For those that do not follow the rules, the City would rather try to place them in a more appropriate place for their needs rather than be back on the street.
7. Open Discussion
 - a. Funding is going well
 - b. Car encampment – there's nothing that can be done to move them
 - c. Sears site – privately owned, so the City can not step in
 - d. Carson, Lomita, Hawthorne, and Gardena need to step up to help
 - e. Mental health is our biggest issue, and we do not have enough resources/ funding to help

