

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Community Update Meeting

April 17, 2019



History of Addressing Homelessness in LE



- **April 2014** – New Subcommittee for Feeding in Parks, Started Pathway Project
- **2015 & 2016**– Increasingly Proactive Enforcement of Illegal Encampments
- **October 2016** – Adopted Regional Homeless Alliance Resolution
- **May/June 2017** – Created Homeless Task Force
- **November 2017** – Launched Homeless Outreach Community Coalition
- **December 2017** – First Community Update Meeting
- **January 2018** – Hired New Community Services Deputy
- **March 2018** – Start Street Outreach Team
- **June 2018** – Special Enforcement by Police Department
- **March 2019** – Awarded \$1.5M Grant for New Regional Homeless Program

The City's Role



Lake Elsinore Homeless Task Force

Strategic Objectives

- ✓ Assess Homeless Population
- ✓ Communication & Outreach to Community
- ✓ Form Community Collaborative
- ✓ Create List of Available Resources & Services, Identify Gaps
- ✓ Review, Assess and Create Best Practices for Homelessness
- ✓ Update Municipal Codes Based on Homelessness
- ✓ Develop New Programs to Reduce Homelessness
- ✓ Coordinate with Regional Efforts
- ✓ Clarify City's Role and Partnership with Non-Profits and Faith Based Orgs
- ✓ Begin to Create Local Housing Crisis & Response Team

Members

Mayor Pro Tem
Natasha Johnson

Councilmember
Brian Tisdale

City Staff

Police Department

County of Riverside,
District 1 & Flood
Control

Chamber of Commerce

Key Community
Stakeholders

PSAC Member

Latest Successes



- Established Street Outreach Team – Social Work Action Group (SWAG)
- Proactive Law Enforcement Partnership – New Problem Oriented Policing Team
- Collaborative Approach to Addressing Encampments
- Connected with More than 400 Community Members – Community Coalition
- Ongoing Tracking and Review of Existing Homeless Population
- Point-in-Time Count –78 Homeless last year, new data coming April 30
- Seeking New and Existing Resources to Address Homelessness Locally and Regionally
- Building Momentum of Success including Securing Funding Sources

Encampment Efforts



- Since **July 1, 2016**:
 - More than **100 transient camp locations** in City.
 - Four Corners/Riverside Drive, Mission Trail, E. Lakeshore Drive, and Rosetta Canyon.
 - Abandoned Buildings – Commercial and Residential
 - Public Parks, Beaches and Public Right of Ways.
 - **300** Transient Camp Clean Ups (includes multiple locations per clean up)
 - Total Cost: Approximately **\$600,000**.
 - **500 tons** of junk and debris removed from these camps.

Law Enforcement Update

Homeless Outreach Efforts



- Since Inception of Position
 - Majority of Time Spent Developing Relationships
 - Community Partners
 - Homeless Subjects
 - Little To No Enforcement
 - Needed To Build Trust
 - 70 + Interactions
 - Continual Reminder Of Help
 - Not All Ideas Were Successful
 - Faith Based Program
 - County Partner Barriers



Change of Direction



- WHY?
 - Need To Put Pressure On Those Who Are Resistant
 - Tells Officers They Are Working With Swag And I
 - Uses It As An Excuse Not To Go To Jail
 - Reality No Effort Put Forth By Subject
 - Those Who Want Help Will Take It
 - Needs To Be Consequences For Actions
 - Not For Being Homeless
 - Crimes Associated (Trespass, Drugs, Stolen Items)
 - Educating Those Who Are Affected About The Need To Prosecute
 - Still Treating Those Affected With Dignity And Respect
 - Help Is Always Offered

The Process



- **DARLENE MINCHK**

- Number 1 Priority In County For Housing

- Started Process Last Year
 - 84 Years Old
 - Meth Addict
 - Dementia And Other Memory Problems
- Has Walked Away From Multiple Locations
- County Housing Partner Has Dropped Ball (It Happens)
 - Need To Stay Vigilant And Hold Accountable
- Swag Involvement - Housed Yesterday!!!!!!



The Process



- **MELISSA SCHHOFIELD**
 - Heroin Addict
 - Started Working With Her Last Year
 - Client Dragged Her Feet
 - Went To Jail Multiple Times
 - Constant Contact
 - Swag Involvement To Push For Needed Items
 - Agreed To Detox
 - Succeeding
 - Likes Sleeping In A Bed
 - Forgot What A Warm Shower Was Like
 - Has No Desire To Go Back To Old Life
 - Knows It Will Be A Struggle And Needs Support

Street Outreach Team

Social Work Action Group (SWAG)

- In August 2017, a group of individuals working for different governmental agencies addressing homelessness formed Social Work Action Group.
- SWAG was born out of the team members frustration with the current programs and services available to people living on the streets.
- Currently, we provide homeless services to the cities of Chino, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Perris, and Wildomar.
- Later this year, we will begin serving Murrieta, Temecula and the unincorporated area of Supervisory District 1.



Lake Elsinore: March 1, 2018 – April 15, 2019



63 Street Exits

- **18-** in Permanent Housing
- **23-** Emergency Shelter/
Transitional Program
- **14-** Substance Abuse
Treatment Facility
- **5-** Bridge/ Transitional
Housing
- **3-** Trip Home/ Family
Reunification



Lake Elsinore Homeless Assessment



121 individuals engaged

- 70%- Mental Illness*
- 74%- Substance Abuse*
- 69%- Elsinore resident*
- 74%- Homeless more than 1 year*

*Self-reported



Wildomar: March 1, 2018 – April 15, 2019



26 Street Exits

- 6 - Permanent Housing
- 5- Emergency Shelter/
Transitional Program
- 8- Substance Abuse
Treatment Facility
- 3- Bridge/ Transitional
Housing
- 4- Trip Home/ Family
Reunification

Wildomar Homeless Assessment



42 individuals engaged

- **83%- Mental Illness***
- **79%- Substance Abuse***
- **79%- Wildomar resident***
- **83%- Homeless more than 1 year***

* Self-reported

House LE/House Wildomar Program

What's Next?



New Funding to Address Homelessness



- **Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)** authorized by Governor Brown in June 2018.
 - Purpose: To provide direct assistance to cities to address the homelessness crisis throughout California.
- City of LE, City of Wildomar and County Areas Applied for Housing Assistance and Support Program in Dec.
- **Two of Three Cities in Riv. Co.** to be Awarded Funding.
- A second round and additional housing funding expected in coming year.

The Need for More Services

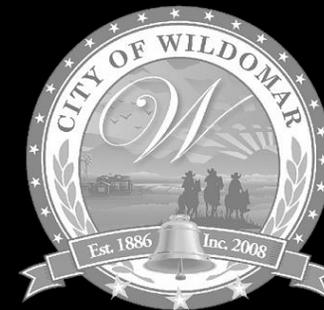


- Homelessness is Increasing
- Homeless Individuals are Dying on Our Streets
- No Local Beds or Housing Available
- Currently No Funding for Cities for Homelessness
- High Number of Police Calls for Service
- Negative Impacts to Quality of Life for Citizens & Businesses
- Minimal Service Providers
- Increasing Abatement Costs
- Leveraging Limited Resources
- Removing Barriers

Proposed Program – House LE/Wildomar



- **\$1.5 Million Grant Award**, Expected August 2019.
- Regional **demonstration effort** to build and implement a Housing First Program.
- Innovative, collaborative approach to serve a **high need, under-served area** of Southwest Riv. Co.
- Identify ways to **create housing** in areas with little to no resources for the homeless that can be replicated.
- Aimed at finding those with the greatest need and to get them **housed as soon as possible**.



Key Proposed Services



- Homeless Street Outreach
- Enforcement – **New** Community Services Deputy
- Housing Outreach – **New** Housing and Outreach Specialist
- Housing Database
 - Landlords/Property Owners
 - Possible Housing Options
 - Community Service Providers
 - Develop Incentives, e.g. Eviction Protection
- Housing Navigation
- Community Outreach

Key Proposed Services



- **Housing Subsidies** – Up to 5 in the region, leased by non-profit.
 - Covers rent, utilities, landscaping, maintenance and more.
 - House for 30 to 120 days until a more permanent option found
 - Reviewed and approved by Homeless Task Force
- **Rental Assistance** – Includes Down Payment Assistance
- **Intensive Case Management and Supportive Services**
 - Permanent, Supportive Care
- **Data Collection & Reporting** – Ongoing Evaluation

More to Come...



- SWAG awarded more than **\$2.7 million dollars** from Riverside County:
 - \$1.796 million for Acquisition and Rehabilitation of 18 Permanent Supportive Housing units for Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Perris and Unincorporated Areas
 - \$627,000 for Encampment Response Team Support Services
 - \$304,000 for Flexible Housing Subsidies (e.g. Motel Vouchers)

Ways to Help Our Efforts



1. **Secure and Protect Your Property** – Join Neighborhood Watch. Reduce opportunities for crime. Lock it up.
2. **Property Appearance & Maintenance** – The appearance you have is the attention you attract.
3. **Practice Responsible Compassion** - Give a Hand Up, Not a Hand Out. Visit www.TheSWAG.org.
4. **Give to Established Organizations** - Time, Talent and/or Treasures.
5. **Report, Report, Report!** – 911, Non-Emergency Line and Alert LE.
6. Sign Up as Interested **Landlord/Property Owner**
7. Offer to Volunteer for **Supportive Services**
8. **Spread the Word!**

www.TheSWAG.org

RESPONSIBLE COMPASSION FOR THE HOMELESS

DO'S & DON'TS

Let Your Generosity Be a Part of the Solution

DO respond to solicitation requests with a firm **NO**.

DO report all illegal activity by calling 911 or non-emergency law enforcement number (951) 776-1099.

DO treat homeless with respect and dignity.

DO offer homeless information to get help, such as dialing 211.

DO volunteer with or donate to organizations that help the homeless.

DO be a part of the solution by practicing Responsible Compassion.

DON'T encourage panhandling by giving money, food, supplies, etc.

DON'T give them your address or take them to your home.

DON'T allow camping or loitering on your property.

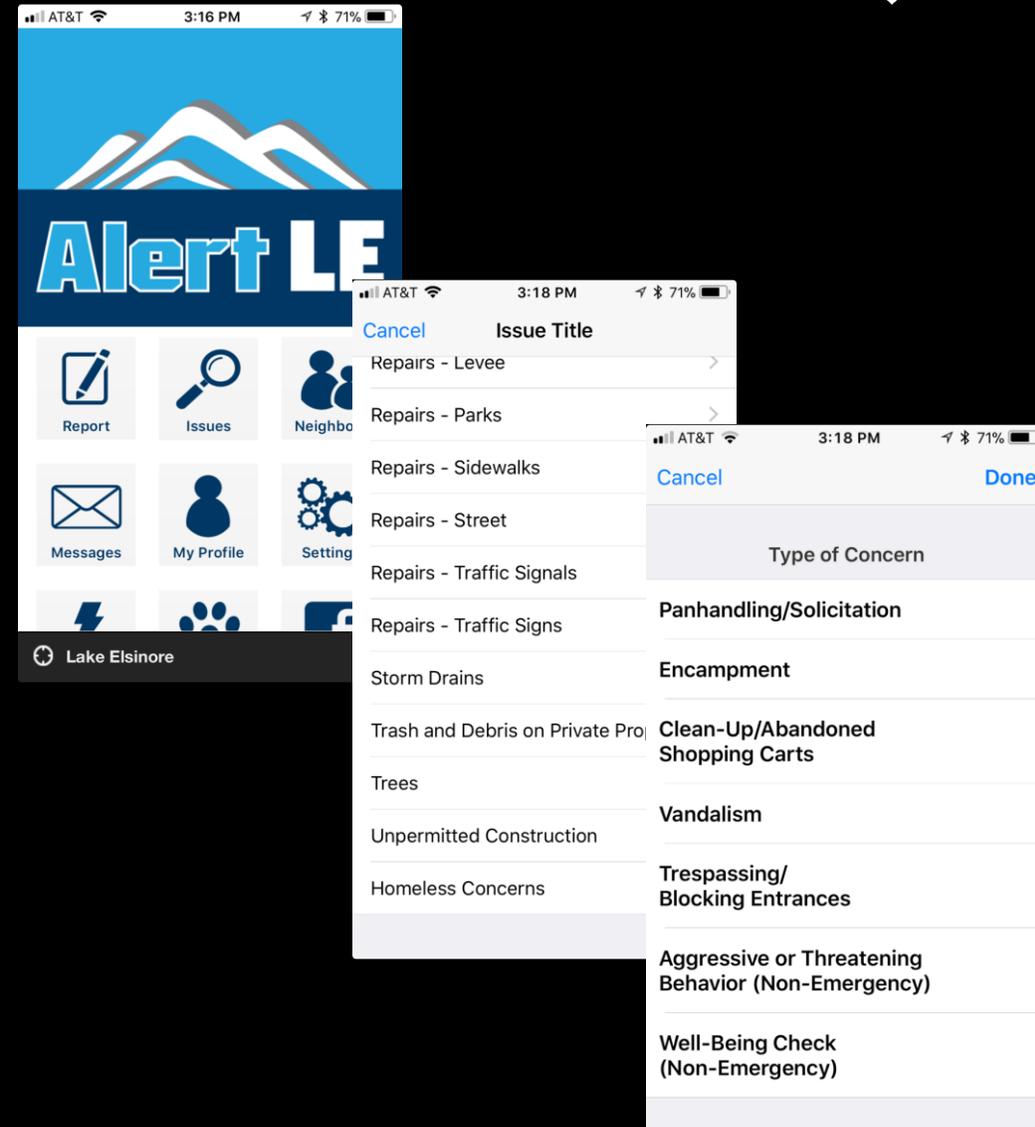
DON'T assume you're making a difference when you are giving; you may actually be hurting, not helping.

Find out more at www.lake-elsinore.org/homelesstaskforce or www.responsiblecompassion.com.

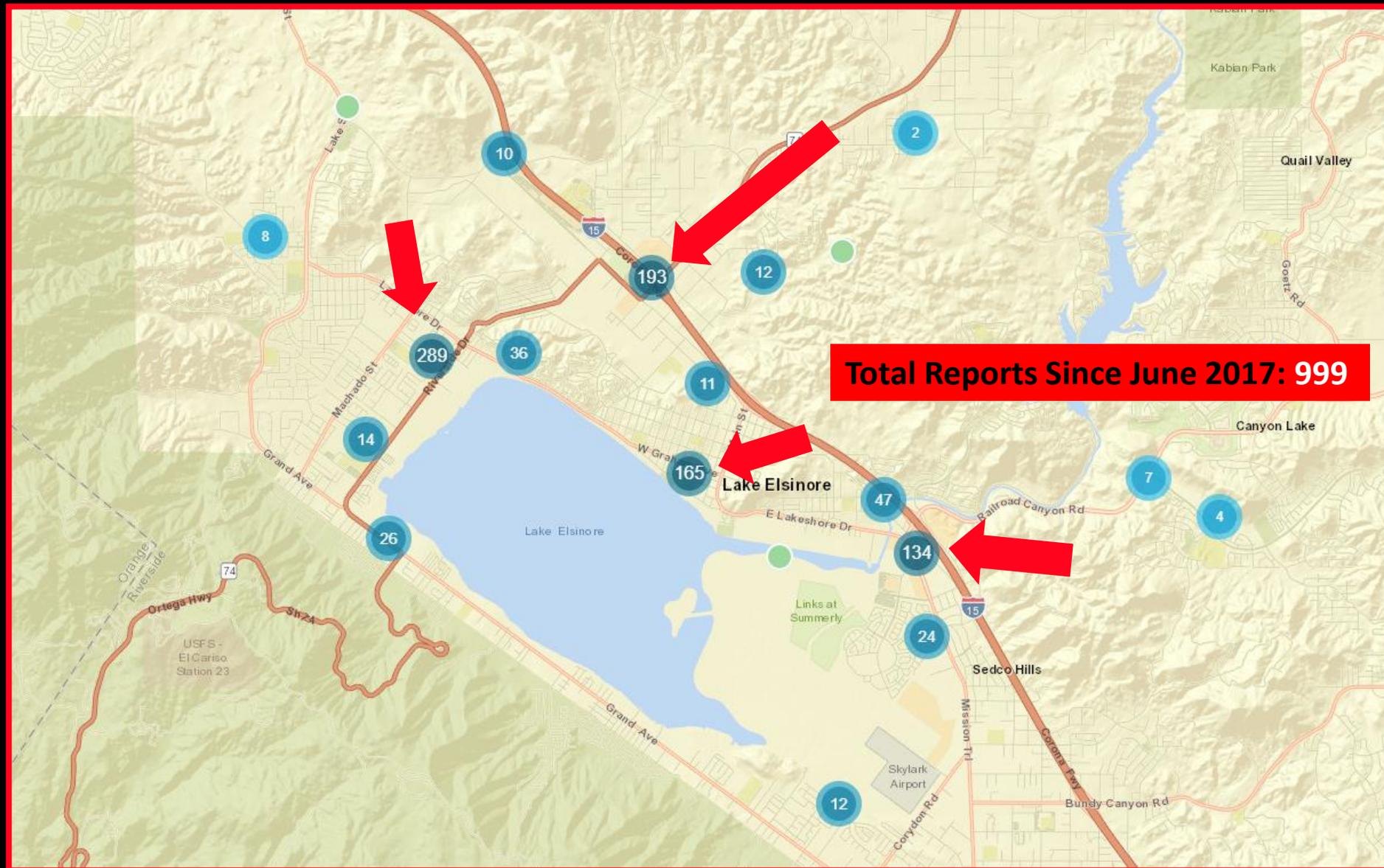
Report, Report & Report



- Alert LE
 - Online at www.lake-elsinore.org/alertle
 - Facebook [@LakeElsinoreCityHall](https://www.facebook.com/LakeElsinoreCityHall)
 - [App Store](#) – search Alert LE
- Police Non-Emergency Dispatch - **(951) 776-1099**
 - Trespassing
 - Vandalism
 - Theft
 - Panhandling
 - Encampments
- Emergency – Dial 911
 - Aggressive/Threatening



Alert LE Stats & Map



*www.lake-elsinore.org/homelesstaskforce
www.TheSwag.org*

Thank You for your support!

