

TOWN HALL MEETING

Homelessness – A Community Conversation

1. In your opinion, what are the biggest issues/concerns related to homelessness.

- Homeless hanging out in parks. Pine Park is specifically of primary concern. Safety of families and children who are also trying to enjoy the park.
- Difficulty with being able to identify sex offenders who are homeless and ensure they are not within proximity to children, parks and schools.
- Prevalence of encampments: Safety issues (drug paraphernalia, human waste, trash, etc.); environmental impact.
- Challenges with identifying homeless individuals to understand their individual needs and how to best help.
- Are we finding solutions that actually work?
- Concern about the slow response. By the time we come up with and implement solutions, will the problem have grown even further?
- People feeling unsafe walking in their neighborhoods, especially at night.
- Lack of affordable housing and support for low income and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- Lack of resources, shelters and services.
- Some homeless individuals do not want help. What is the solution for those individuals?
- Lack of ability to enforce under the current laws.
- Homeless people have rights, but what about other resident rights and the imposition on downtown Carlsbad? Taxpayers seem to have fewer rights than non-taxpayers.
- Downtown Carlsbad doesn't feel safe.
- Higher concentration of homeless in the Village, Barrio and coast. Why is that? Services are focused in the Village, so is a draw for that population e.g. port-potties. What can we do to reduce that concentration?
- Perception of homeless people is not accurate – the ones we observe are posing as homeless, but are actually professional drug dealers, with long-term sales habits. They have mules, on bicycles, etc. working the Village in a planned, coordinated way. Have seen the DEA perform enforcement operations on occasion.
- Homeless as “vagrants,” “hooligans.” They are aggressive, accost visitors to the city and residents, loiter outside liquor stores, dangerous.
- Health, safety, economic development, impact to businesses, restrictions to what police can enforce.
- “Home First” federal funding – affordable housing funding is restricted to participants willing to drug test.
- Concerned that the city is increasing funding to hire officers and other staff to address this – the burden is on me, the tax payer. What would the police officers be doing for our community if they weren't working on this homeless issue?
- City had a plan to build a beachfront bathroom, but it wasn't ultimately approved, because of a fear it would become a place where homeless congregate.
- Porta-potties throughout the Village – why???
- Trash and cleanliness – leave trash, litter everywhere. Village is looking bad.
- Health concerns, spread of disease.
- Zoning is very strict. The way to get around this is to build a large home, house up to eight people, call it a drug rehab half-way house. Properties are currently being purchased to turn into these half-way houses. Receive state funding to create these residences. The drug dealers are selling drugs to these residents.
- Mentally ill, with how homeless are treated in our city.
- Funding to help with the issue, resources for homeless help and getting enough help for social work and community organizations to help.
- Where can we help find temporary housing and can rent control be considered to lower prices.
- Need resources to help with not just police enforcement and jail time.

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- Getting people into a home should be top priority, need places to take shower, job resources, phone and mail service to help.
- Need more money to support mental health and housing and treatment services.
- All the cities need to work together more with Oceanside and not push problems to other cities.
- Need to consolidate services in the area/region.
- Not sure we want to encourage showers, restrooms, giving out food and tents for homeless because we could be enabling them and drawing more homeless into Carlsbad than other cities.
- If they get mental health treatment, how long does that help really last if just one-time treatment and need long-term medication. Funding is an issue.
- Issue with homeless refusing services for treatment as well so if you provide more and more services, they might not be utilized. If Oceanside is cracking down on homeless, then we are getting more people in Carlsbad and that is a concern and especially around the northern side of our city.
- Open space areas are becoming homeless areas and damaging habitat.
- Drug use/abuse.
- Affordable housing/bad credit no lease.
- How to fix homeless????
- Cleaning encampments push transients into parks.
- A lot of homeless.
- Root of problem not going away.
- Nobody wants a homeless person around their children; safety concerns.
- Impact on environment.
- Disease.
- Availability of shelters/housing resources.
- Connect homeless to services/needs.
- Provide more services/brings more homeless.
- Unmet mental health needs; lack of sufficient resources to help.
- Some homeless content with where they are. They do not want to get off drugs.
- No ownership of the addiction problem.
- Need to connect people with needs and available resources.
- All homeless have different issues; mental health, drugs, alcohol, money.
- Have centralized area for support – short- and long-term solutions.
- A regional solution can't have one location (e.g. Escondido) to support all of North County.
- Letting too many people out of jail too soon (e.g. people who have committed felonies).
- Homeless is an umbrella with a variety of causes, needs.
- There is no rehab in jail.
- Need to differentiate the problems behind homelessness.
- People make their own choices (as to if and when to seek help).
- Many homeless lack a support system (e.g. family support).
- Create categories based on their needs/conditions.
- Can't be arrested
- Laws aren't helpful – repeat offenders.
- People/residents are not aware of what to do to help.
- Loitering.
- Won't accept help.
- Not enough resources to clean up, retrain, educate people that are homeless.
- Not enough guidance to help homeless and mentoring to get assistance.
- Laws limit number of people in a home.
- Lack of sleeping space.
- Dangerous to residents (mentally unstable).
- Zoning won't allow Father Joe's Village.
- Negative impact on business.

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- Lack of mental health services or overloaded services.
- Create fear.
- Viewed as a blight in parks.
- Creates hygiene problem.
- People are afraid.
- Not enough help for drug abuse and therefore more homeless.
- Aggressive homeless can detract from people wanting to help.
- Disconnect between residents and homeless.
- Socioeconomic level.
- Drug use and defecating.
- Panhandlers who become too aggressive when told no.
- Fear of the unknown.
- Homeless students? What happens to them? School District used to track.
- Involve Veterans Administration in addressing and coordinating services.
- Creating health and safety concerns due to refuse and waste in public areas.
- Fire concerns because of cooking and needed warmth.
- Where does the funding come from for care and shelters?
- Fear on part of kids, elderly and single walkers (kids walking to school); safety.
- Population is escalating.
- Underage alcohol access provided by homelessness.
- Identifying those who want help versus those who resist help or take advantage of the system.
- Concern where compassion turns into enablement.
- How to match services to needs.
- Unsanitary conditions in public places causing disease.
- Inclusionary housing, identify who the homeless are. Example: mental health, drug use, etc.
- Glad talking about being regional problem.
- Lack of shelter for homeless. Would like data on homeless population. Who are vets, mental health, etc.?
- Main concern, regional housing need. City to provide housing, place to go with facilities. Restrooms, showers, counseling, job training.
- La Posada does not house farm workers in decades. Is this true?
- Crime, break ins and car break ins.
- Safety – people are afraid.
- Public health issue (Pine Ave Park) urine smell.
- Lagoon, lack of sanitation.
- Prostitutes on Kelly.
- Unseen homeless and crime issue.
- Homeless moving into residential areas living in their vehicles.
- The Country Liquor store provides 90% of alcohol. Migrant workers buy cases of beer and walk to the Kelly trail.
- Concerned since the murder.
- Disease concerns due to spread in the camps and bodily waste issues.
- The growing number of homeless.
- ID the people who are trying versus those who don't.
- How do vehicle habitants fit into this?
- Police have less arrest powers (custodial) for preventing crimes.
- It is very time consuming for the police to address.
- We need legislative change.
- Taxing system – depleting resources.
- Child services for homeless families.
- Legislation and inability to identify repeat offenders.
- How do citizens create a deterrent?

- Recognizing the complexity of the issue.
- Fear of taking family to public areas.
- Financial strain is biggest concern and is the end result from the other issues.
- Opioid crisis.
- Recovery from economic crisis.
- Home invasion robbery turned murder.
- Politics.
- People receiving services that are not sober or accountable.
- Homeless don't clean up.
- Citizens don't have rights, but homeless don't get in trouble.
- Current laws are not helping the problem.
- Cannot reach a live person on HOT line.
- Fights near the train tracks.
- Feeling helpless like we can't do anything.
- It is great to help, but they need to do something too.
- Concern programs aren't working because people don't want to change.
- Ballot measures – weaker laws.

2. How do you think Carlsbad can help address the issues/concerns on a regional basis?

- Regional cities working together and on the same page for how to address homelessness. This will help avoid situations like the one in Orange County where one city tore down homeless encampments and ended up just displacing homeless to other neighboring areas.
- Each city in the region could take on a specialty and coordinate efforts so that there is no duplication.
- Address the root problems such as lack of affordable housing, addiction, mental illness.
- Pursue law suits against pharmaceutical companies for their roles in the opioid epidemic and use as funding towards programs and services.
- Deal with each person individually to be able to address their unique needs. Families experiencing homelessness may have very different needs from someone who is homeless due to a mental health problem. Understanding these unique needs and customizing the support is important.
- Use unused military barracks to house the homeless and provide for basic needs. Also, provide them with jobs so that they can feel a sense of contribution and connection to the community.
- Advocate on a higher level for community members to have better access to health care, health insurance.
- Take the time to learn about individuals and build trust.
- Identify and provide support for those who are at risk of becoming homeless.
- Increase the amount of affordable housing and broaden the eligibility to include “middle class” individuals who also cannot afford to live in the area.
- Develop a hot line for people who are at risk of becoming homeless to call for resources and support.
- Ask the homeless community what their needs are and include them in conversations like this.
- Bring services to where the homeless individuals are located. Place resource centers at parks and other places where homeless spend time.
- Build a workforce that incorporates homeless individuals to give them an opportunity to earn money and contribute.
- Focus on providing services on a more holistic basis. Providing housing and wraparound services. Without the support of wraparound services, there is more likelihood of returning to homelessness.
- Support for family members who feel helpless and burned out on trying to help their family member experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health issues.
- Forums/ Petitions to get enforceable laws back on the ballot. Reinstate legislation to give police the tools to enforce more.
- Awareness of the scale of the problem. 110,000 population and 10 got help.
- Don't be so “homeless friendly.” No homeless in Del Mar, Solana Beach, because they don't appear to allow it. What are they doing differently? Can Carlsbad do more of it?

- Consistent enforcement among NC cities. All the coastal cities generate revenue from tourism and have incentive.
- Method of homeless count needs to be evaluated – doesn't result in accurate numbers (I participated in counting the homeless in the dark, from a vehicle).
- Would like to see more police on walking and bike patrols in the village. Better able to see the activity we are describing.
- Address the "half-way house" where people are buying houses via stat funded programs and turning them into rehab facilities, which attract crime. Residents have no supervision, no requirements, no enforcement. Address via stricter legislation.
- Crack down on liquor stores.
- Crack down on churches who don't have licenses to fee homeless.
- Water parks during early morning hours.
- Cameras 24/7 at city parks and other facilities.
- More regional programs and funds, housing/employment resources.
- We need to build more affordable housing and not such large, expensive homes.
- Some cities provide studio apartments with mental health and treatment services available in house and helps homeless get on their feet within 6 months to one year.
- Regional mental health halfway house and place where they could go to get help, take showers.
- Fear of homeless so maybe there needs to be more community education on the issues and risks of homeless in Carlsbad.
- Regional drain without Tri-City medical being open to take mentally ill people in our region. A regional facility is needed and would be helpful for cities to pool resources and have a Tri-City medical.
- Affordable/easiness of renting an apartment.
- Stop other police departments from sending homeless here.
- Have regional courts begin to require drug treatment.
- Collaboration of service.
- Housing availability within the region.
- More services.
- Housing first model; save money in long run.
- Public meetings/talk to people who are homeless and ask them what they (homeless) need.
- Eliminate barriers to housing.
- Community-based case management.
- Collaboration with neighboring cities.
- Homeless prevention – services to provide to prevent homeless.
- Living wages.
- Incentives for ADU's or other housing options.
- Consider divvying up categories by city (services for mental health, another for addiction).
- Help hiring people (e.g. the Hiring Center).
- Adult daycare centers for each category in each city.
- Regional task force to establish accessible, affordable rehab centers.
- Regional approach to addressing mental health.
- Many homeless or incarcerated have children whose needs are not being addressed. May follow in the same footsteps or have other needs.
- Educate population that this is a universal problem and residents need to help.
- Work together to provide a Father Joe's type village.
- Do a pilot study of people that homeless and then work to solve at a regional level.
- Lobby to change laws, less lenient.
- Get the HOT teams together and listen to them, they will know the answers.
- Share information between cities to know who needs what, who has done what, who is where.
- Eradicate the drug problem by eradicating dealers and getting the users help.
- Research and divide into core groups so resources can be used.
- Off to a good start and build on what we have.

- Continue to work with other cities for shared resources.
- More housing (shelter).
- Tent city.
- Move feeding the homeless nights to other cities (rotational).
- Shipping container residences.
- Participate in Alpha Project.
- Offer more for seniors (nothing affordable).
- Developing citizen/elected official committee to work with other cities in the region.
- Transparency and open communication between cities.
- Voucher program for hotels to reduce camping.
- Temporary campground.
- A political action group to reverse some of these laws.
- Funding for services in jail.
- Work with colleges/students to help provide services.
- Make sure our laws are up to date.
- Waive the fee for applying to affordable housing.
- The City of Carlsbad should bring a lawsuit against the State of California for costs and damages attributed to Proposition 47 and 57 and AB109.
- Erect street signs instructing people not to give money or food to panhandlers.
- The PIT count is flawed and biased. Will the city convey to the region that the PIT count slants services and funding access from certain populations identified in the PIT?
- Will the City of Carlsbad report the top 100 chronic offenders who are the most arrested, cited, have outstanding warrants so that they can be addressed?
- Will the Carlsbad City Council pass a resolution calling for the repeal of Propositions 47 and 57?
- Will the Carlsbad City Council pass a resolution or join an amicus brief opposing the Martin v Boise decision by the 9th Circuit Court?
- How will the City of Carlsbad consider its activities and spending addressing homelessness as effective? Will they measure based on responses and the provision of services or on concrete outcomes like reduced crimes, reduced encampments?
- How will the City of Carlsbad convey to its state representatives that state funding restricts the way communities and regions respond to the homelessness issue?
- Prohibit panhandling in Carlsbad.
- Use surplus funds to get hotel rooms or provide shelter.
- Waive development fees for ADU's but would need to put the home in affordable housing stock in exchange.
- Structured feeding area with town police supervision.
- Multi-faceted housing solutions for low income seniors.
- Hiring center for the homeless.
- Provide parking lot for people living in motorhomes/vans/cars to avoid constantly being chased off.
- Turn Charger's training camp into homeless shelter. Ask the Federal Government for land on CP to house people.
- Buy motel on Pio Pico, SRO, to house people.
- Create employment opportunities that are similar to Urban Corps.
- Safe parking area for homeless in cars with facilities. Parking lot at Faraday during the night.
- Need to create more beds.
- Women's facility in Carlsbad, homeless or domestic abuse.
- Open the Section 8 housing list that has been closed for 13 years.
- The county has money for mental health and they should give it to the cities.
- ID open space and set up a designated space to have transitional housing with a shuttle and utilities.
- Break down the social stigmas.
- Place resources and homeless under one roof.
- Emergency resources, tiny houses, easy developments for transition.

- Communicate with the homeless to see what their needs are.
- Regional effort on health issues.
- Subsidize city beautification/simpler jobs with homeless looking for recovery. Give them structure and purpose paired with transitional housing.
- Attainable resources that are within their area of living.
- Jobs for anyone to come learn that have low barriers and enter into a trade program/employment resource.
- City outreach office. Volunteer opportunities.
- Homeless street fair.
- Push TriCity.
- Punishment/consequences for small businesses. Hire for theft.
- Look at grocery policies.
- Get involved more with businesses.
- Workshops to get off street.
- Get into schools to stop bad behavior before it evolves.
- Invite homeless to our meetings; hear their voice.
- Chronic offender program.
- Program similar to New Zealand (Housing First) which provides housing in exchange for work for the city.
- Signage in parks regarding services available.
- Engage seniors and other homeless.
- Provide sleeping area with doctors and teachers.
- Convert Farmers Building into a central area for the homeless so they have a place to sleep.
- Give homeless a job at the homeless center; provide things for the homeless to do.
- Need to get post-acute beds for in between hospitals and shelters.
- Help before it is too late.
- Build more shelters in Oceanside/Barstow.
- Outreach programs.
- Looking at models elsewhere; Australia.

3. What 3 things are you going to do or commit to?

- Learn about the services that are available for homeless and help educate others in the community about these services.
- Be proactive and call for help; if I see a homeless person who appears to be in need of assistance, call someone.
- Attend more meetings such as this one.
- Volunteer and help when needed (e.g. collect items to be donated to shelters, volunteer at shelters, food banks, etc. assist with the annual Point in Time Count).
- Be more active politically to advocate for changes in how the homeless problem is being addressed.
- Keep on complaining.
- Support new legislation
- Add lighting as deterrent.
- Add security cameras as a deterrent.
- Follow the city's homeless response plan.
- Assist with the homeless count.
- Volunteering as social worker/case manager.
- Citizen representative on regional committee or citywide committee.
- Advocating to get Tri-City to reopen.
- Volunteer to serve food and sort clothes at thrift store at facility in Oceanside.
- Talk to homeless at these facilities to see what help and services they need.
- Talk to local churches about helping as well. Give money to churches and organizations doing things to help homeless.
- Voicing your opinion to representatives.

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- Mentorship.
- Donating to shelters/food banks.
- Repeal Proposition 47 and 57 – speak with representatives.
- Initiate group (community) meetings.
- Temporary shelters.
- Spread the word.
- Donate money to homeless resources.
- Research the root of homeless.
- Many people living in cars. Research apartments and affordability and share with council.
- Work with homeless at the showers. Talk to them.
- Talk to people about mental health.
- Say hello to the homeless. Small act means so much.
- Volunteer at shelters.
- Work with the city to address issues.
- Willingness to open a group home for homeless.
- Repeal Proposition 47, contacting elected officials to get on the ballot.
- Become more educated on what to do.
- Keep coming to meetings.
- Approach school district office and ID homeless students and start an early intervention.
- Participate in town hall meetings.
- Download app.
- Community watch.
- Make cameras available to police when needed.
- Opportunity to be on a committee or volunteer time to assist.
- Assist HOT.
- Provide medical services to homeless.
- Talk to local legislatures to advocate on behalf of city and citizens to change laws.
- City could create an address for the homeless to use.
- Volunteer at women's shelters.
- Stop feeding them at Holiday Park.
- Write to our representatives.
- Join or volunteer to work on Ad Hoc committee with the Mayor and City Council.
- Committed to awareness.
- Humanize the homeless.
- Break down stigmas.
- Redirect homeless toward city services.
- When you see questions or comments about homelessness on social media, post HOT contact information.
- Letter writing campaign to elected officials at every level; city – state AB 516 remove policies authority to remove 3-day parked vehicles.
- Ban alcohol in parks.
- Go to town hall and give opinion.
- Security guard near business to walk around.
- Cameras/monitor local areas.