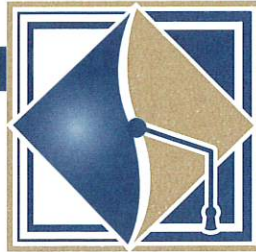


Correspondence received after the meeting

3/27/18, S14E



March 21, 2018

RECEIVED
CLERK OF THE BOARD
MAR 26 2018

Dear Orange County Board of Supervisors,

It has been well publicized that both the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Anaheim City Council have been actively working to resolve concerns regarding homeless encampments along the riverbed. The reasons behind the need to move the homeless out of the riverbed area included sanitation issues, drugs and needles, spread of disease, presence of violent crimes, etc.

We greatly appreciate that the city and county are diligently working at creating long-term solutions, while providing short-term opportunities, including temporary housing. But, in our experience, it would appear that many of the homeless are not taking advantage of these short-term opportunities.

Since the homeless have been removed from the riverbed, we have seen a daily increase in transient crime and trespassing onto our schools and school district property. Just a very few of the incidents include:

- A growing amount of tents forming a new encampment on the railroad tracks just across the street from the district office.
- A transient with a knife and drug paraphernalia arrested at Sycamore Junior High School.
- A homeless women breaking into one of our warehouse trucks and living in it over the weekend. This included moving a chair, ottoman, and food into the van. This person also defecated in our warehouse area.
- A person broke into the storage tool boxes on several of our work trucks.
- One of our warehouse drivers started their truck for their route for the day and three homeless people darted out from under it.
- Several homeless people were trespassing through our maintenance yard and when asked to leave became belligerent with our employee.
- Gasoline being siphoned from our vehicles on multiple evenings.

Due to the collaborative and positive relationship between the Anaheim Police Department and the school district, we reached out to Interim Chief Julian Harvey to express concerns regarding the increased presence of homeless people at our schools, and especially the new encampment that has moved from the riverbed to the railroad track property across from our district office.

Chief Harvey was extremely supportive and immediately connected us with Officer Bynum, who is a member of the homeless detail. However, the city is limited by resources and regulations in terms of how they can address our concerns. For example, the city indicated that the railroad police would be in charge of removing the homeless from the railroad property, and cautioned that they, too, are limited in resources and it could take significant

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

time for them to respond to any concerns that we may initiate. A call to the railroad police led to the encampment moving to the sidewalk just across the street from our district office. This is concerning as children may be using this path on their way to and from Brookhurst Junior High School.

The school district is incurring significant additional costs to ensure the safety of our property and, most importantly, our students and staff. Many of these expenses will take educational opportunities away from our students in AUHSD. The evening security that monitors our campuses has been redirected to walk the district office site at 4:00 a.m., each morning to ensure that our staff will not encounter encampments that have been set up on our property in the evening and on weekends. We have hired a campus security guard for daytime hours at the district office. The process to install \$25,000 worth of cameras at our district office to alert us to trespassing on our property has begun. Planning for the installation of security fencing around our schools and our district office, at the cost of between \$300,000-\$500,000 per site has begun. These latest safety measures are in addition to the significant resources we have already set aside to support the more than 4,200 homeless students (McKinney-Vento identified) in our district. We have hired additional social workers, boosted access to county mental health services, and collaborated with community organizations to establish a strong network of resources to combat this challenging societal issue.

Again, whereas we applaud the city and county's efforts to relocate the homeless out of the riverbed, you should know that they have simply moved into the community and brought concerns of feces, drugs, disease, and violent crime into our neighborhoods.

It appears that many of the homeless that were housed temporarily in motels and shelters will be placed back out into the community. We applaud your efforts at finding a humane solution to this complex problem, including your recent vote to spend \$90 million on permanent housing, but we want you to be aware of our current situation. We implore you to continue to find the resources that will ensure the safety of our schools and community members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Matsuda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael B. Matsuda
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Anaheim City Council
Sandy Barry, Interim Superintendent, Anaheim Elementary School District
Norma Martinez, Superintendent, Centralia School District
Anne Silavs, Superintendent, Cypress School District
Frank Donovan, Ed.D., Superintendent, Magnolia School District
Sue Johnson, Ed.D., Superintendent, Savanna School District