

Lopez, Maria [COB]

From: Pat D <pat7oaks@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 11:45 PM
To: COB_Response; Page, Leon
Subject: BOS comments

Hi Leon

Here are my comments for October 6 Board of Supervisors meeting. I appreciate your reading them at the appropriate time as I continue to shelter in place at home due to the health risks I face with COVID and the unsafe practices I still see in the Board Rooms and outside.

Any chance you're yet advocating for seating inside for those who do come to the board meeting? If they are restricted to the outside area are you yet providing sound and access to the proceedings outside? Your failure to do so continues to stifle public participation.

Item 12

As the county continues to dangerously misrepresent where we are in our COVID 19 response and inadequate attempts to support our community's health and well being, you have reached a new low. This one will significantly add to the already elevated monthly deaths in your unhoused citizens.

Notices are currently going out to those who have been participating in Project Roomkey and Toolbelt, since CARES money was allocated, that the program will be closing soon and prepare to exit.

These programs were intended to provide shelter in place locations for those who are unhoused and have been identified with health needs and age risks. (Not the prison like set-up with inadequate food and services many have experienced.) The program was to provide them the motel placement and care with health and housing placement services during this crisis. The COVID -19 crisis is not over! Yet here we are and 100's of persons will be back on the street or in unsatisfactory congregate shelters already full according to the current CDC guidelines.

How could you mess this up so badly? Free money. The potential to secure permanent housing units so desperately needed. And now your narrative around "those service resistant clients" will conveniently once again be used versus admitting your failure to provide the very program funded and entrusted to you!

Supervisor Bartlett showed her limited, misguided understanding last meeting when she said it is important to let those areas where Project Roomkey sites are located know that when the program ends, "we're not going to just open the doors and let people wander out." Great attempt to rile up those local communities!!! Such a compassionate tone NOT!

She went onto misrepresent the facts in that

"All participants in Roomkey will have an opportunity to get into permanent supportive housing, shelters, recuperative care programs and other housing". Shelters are NOT housing!

And finally sounding so promising - "We will give them that next step into a program with wraparound services." All that will not happen in the next 1 to 3 weeks. Why were there not services and placements being arranged for all during this 6 month period? Why end the program now? Money's are available to year's end. The County has adequate resources to extend that further if needed.

Truth be told none of you on this Board have ever intended to address the unhoused person's needs with a Housing First approach. Instead bounce folk from one unsuccessful program to another all the while lining the pockets of unchecked service providers. Shame on each of you!

Public Comment

We who provide volunteer support and advocacy for some of your most vulnerable citizens who are the unhoused in Orange County, continue to mourn the needless murder of Mr. Kurt Reinhold at the hands of the Sheriff's Homeless Liaison Officers in San Clemente on September 23, 2020. Senseless death. So many already die on the street every month due to your lack of ability or commitment to developing any model for consistently providing outreach and services that successfully house those in need. We need Housing NOT shelters! We need Services NOT citations and arrests! We need Health care NOT injuries!

How can you get this so wrong? What about Housing First as the model for providing for the unhoused don't you get? You think they don't deserve help that works? You have given up on them yet more than willing to incarcerate them and build bigger jails. Now investing in Musick a Mental Health jail? What could possibly go wrong with that plan? EVERYTHING! You must end providing mental health care with deadly weapons. Let me be clear - it is not working!

Obviously law enforcement is not the outreach help so needed. For many generations that model of engagement has not been the best practice cited anywhere. Why does Orange County not catch up and figure out that Social Control is not the answer? Your failures to OC citizens must have to do with money and I suspect it is that money which lines your pockets. We know there is plenty of money in your County budget. You all profess to be educated and god following people (as evidenced by your meeting invocations) but you still support killing over providing the Community Services needed.

I know change is coming and I hope it starts with unseating Andrew Do this November. Then removing the rest of you by whatever means necessary. There are good and caring people in Orange County. You just don't happen to be amongst them.

Pat Davis

Sent from my phone. Please excuse brevity and typos.