



January 19, 2024

Orange County Board of Supervisors
400 W. Civic Center Dr.,
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Orange County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for Vice Chairman Doug Chaffee's Agenda Item 33 to fund \$500,000 towards a Fourth District Emergency Rental Assistance Pilot Program with the Friendly Center.

Individuals can fall into homelessness due to a variety of complex factors, including job loss, high housing costs, mental health issues, and a lack of support system, among others. Governments primarily focus on providing programs and services that address homelessness due to limited resources and the severity of those situations.

However, individuals and families who face great financial challenges and may be one crisis away from falling into homelessness. By prioritizing preventative measures to address extreme situations before they escalate, we can create better comprehensive and broader approaches to address homelessness.

Homelessness prevention initiatives are crucial because they address the root causes of homelessness, aiming to stop individuals and families from becoming homeless in the first place. By providing rental assistance paired with case management and support such as job training, financial counseling, and other wrap-around services, these initiatives help people not only obtain but maintain stable housing.

Preventing homelessness not only preserves the dignity of individuals but also has broader societal benefits such as reducing the strain on emergency shelters, healthcare systems, and social services. It is a cost-effective and humane approach that fosters community stability and well-being, and I urge you to vote in favor of the Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Gillanders".

David Gillanders
Executive Director
Pathways of Hope