



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Presented by Lucy V. Pedregon

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HOMELESSNESS

While many of us enjoy the comforts of life in having food and shelter, there are those who are not so fortunate. We are reminded by Janice Hahn, Supervisor of Los Angeles County 4th District, of the less fortunate and growing in numbers who are “Homeless”. Supervisor Hahn presented Measure “H” to address the growing needs of all people in Los Angeles County. Now that the measure is in effect, many agencies have partnered to address the issue of homelessness. Hacienda Heights is no exception to homelessness. In fact, it has the highest rate of homelessness compared to the neighboring communities. In a recent survey,

homelessness statistics are:	Whittier Narrows	35
	Rowland Heights	40
	Altadena	55
	Hacienda Heights	313

On April 1, 2019 an open house meeting was held at the Hacienda Heights Community Center by the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department regarding “Interim and Supportive Housing Ordinance”. The purpose of the meeting was to educate all about homelessness and all agencies involved in addressing the issue such as including the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Housing, United Way and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. The most important is the “Interim and Supportive Housing Ordinance”. What does this mean? Interim is described as temporary. According to a recent survey, 5,500 people are experiencing homelessness in unincorporated communities of which 4,800 are unsheltered. Presently, the county is drafting a temporary housing unit to shelter these families, seek employment and move to the next level of being connected with permanent housing to become productive members of the community. Supportive housing is affordable which includes many services that help people face many complex challenges of living.

There are 120 unincorporated communities in the Los Angeles County with an estimated 1.1 million residents. It is in the early stages of seeking undeveloped land for the development of Interim Housing which is critical in ending homelessness. Some of the strategies include: open space with in buildings, churches, nonprofit owned properties, conversions of motels/hotels as a temporary solution until the Interim Housing units are built.

This issue of homelessness is a serious one and certainly hits home.