



Date: January 26, 2017
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.H.W.*
From: Robert G. Luna, Chief of Police *R. Luna*
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: **POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS**

The purpose of this memorandum is to highlight the Police Department's efforts in addressing quality of life and criminal issues related to homelessness.

Many challenges associated with homelessness are health related, including mental illness and substance abuse. Whatever the circumstances, homeless persons can have frequent contact with law enforcement. These contacts may stem from investigations into criminal complaints, or proactive efforts by police to address public intoxication or trespassing.

In an effort to find long-term solutions to these challenges, the Department formed a "Quality of Life" team. Over a period of several years, three officers previously dedicated to responding to calls for service were re-assigned to this function.

In February, the Department will conduct its yearly deployment of officers to various assignments within the Patrol Bureau, and, thanks to Measure A, the South Division will become operational once more. As part of this deployment, and in an effort to address an increase in calls for service and workload, one of the three officers assigned to the Quality of Life team will temporarily return to handling calls for service. The remaining two officers will focus on challenges associated with homelessness. Response to homelessness will continue to be a priority, with augmented resources from the FY 17 Adopted Budget and our partnership with the Health Department and the new Fire Department HEART response team.

Because of your support, we have been able to hire more police officers and conduct back-to-back police academies. The additional academies will assist us in filling future budgeted positions. As always, we will continue to analyze and assess our workload in order to maximize our responsiveness to the needs of our community.

The Department will continue addressing homelessness through our participation in the Public Safety Continuum, with the Health Department taking the lead. Should you have any questions, please contact me or my Chief of Staff, Commander Wally Hebeish, at 562-570-7301.

cc: Charles Parkin, City Attorney
Laura L. Doud, City Auditor
Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
Anitra Dempsey, Interim Deputy City Manager
Rebecca Jimenez, Assistant to the City Manager