

San Rafael City Council
Homelessness Adhoc Subcommittee
Updated January 2014

Members: Mayor Phillips and Councilmember Colin (Subcommittee Chair)

Purpose. The Homelessness Subcommittee will seek to find solutions to reduce the number of homeless in our community and minimize the impact of the homeless in terms of public safety, health, and impacts on Downtown.

Background. The Dept. of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) at the County of Marin has the responsibility to provide shelter, mental health services and to pursue solutions for homelessness. The County spearheads the annual County-wide homeless count, and at last count, the numbers were less than the prior year. HHS has a full time Homelessness Coordinator and a Homeless Advisory Committee upon which one San Rafael Councilperson is assigned a seat.

The City of San Rafael has adopted a Homeless Action Plan. The City has taken the lead to contract with the Downtown Streets Team. In addition, the Police and Fire Departments, with support of Public Works and Code Enforcement staff, are engaged regularly with issues surrounding homelessness including open space clearance for fire protection. Our Police Foot Patrol Downtown, through the City’s HOME program, are regularly dealing with this issue on the street, as well as interacting on a daily basis with Ritter Center and St. Vincent de Paul Society and mental health providers.

While the annual count of homeless has shown a decrease in number, and the above mentioned staff are continuing to work with agencies involved in the issue, the actual visible homeless activity on the streets indicates an increase in homelessness, not a decrease, and community complaints, especially Downtown, are on the rise.

Schedule/Meetings. Quarterly review of the Homeless Action Plan by the City’s CAC.

Community Participation. Options include (not mutually exclusive):

- Meeting(s) with various service providers, the County Homelessness Coordinator, Business Improvement District and/or other interested parties
- More active participation in the County Homeless Advisory Committee’s quarterly meetings and/or other County activities
- Holding a City Council study session
- Conducting community meetings

Objectives: Significantly reduce homelessness in San Rafael

Timeline: To be determined.

Staff: Chief of Police Bishop, City Manager and Economic Development Manager.