



City of Hermosa Beach

Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, California 90254-3885

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

Mr. Mitchell Netburn, Executive Director
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
548 South Spring Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, California 90013

Dear Sir,

I am responding to your questionnaire about our dealings with the homeless in our area. We are a municipal police department. Our mission is to enforce the laws of the land and to protect life and property. Our dealings with the homeless only take place when our law enforcement mission and a homeless person happen to cross paths.

- 1 We do not keep track of the number of homeless people that we deal with either as suspects or victims of crimes. As an educated guess, I would estimate around 5% of our contacts are with the homeless.
2. Our department does not have any procedures to identify the homeless. If during the course of an investigation, a person tells us that they are homeless then that information is recorded on the report.
3. I do not know how much we spend each year in regards to the homeless. I would guess that it is a small percentage of my operating budget.
4. We have no such procedures or policies.
5. I do not know what types of changes in resources, policies or practices would result in a reduction of the homeless in Hermosa Beach.
6. I do not have an answer to this question. I do not know how many homeless people there are in this community. I believe it is very small.
7. I have no answer to this question.

I am sorry that I could not have provided much more information. This is an issue that we do not deal with on a large scale nor is it the mission of a police department to deal with homelessness. I barely have enough resources to carry out my core responsibilities as it is.


Michael Lavin, Chief of Police
Hermosa Beach Police Department

