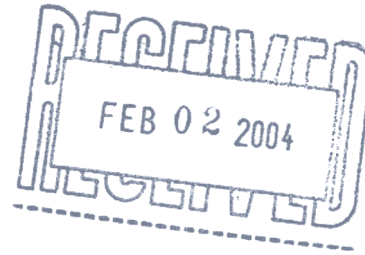




CITY OF
San Fernando
Historic & Visionary



January 29, 2004

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

Subject: Questions regarding Homeless Persons in the City of San Fernando

Dear Mr. Netburn:

On December 31, 2003, the City of San Fernando received a letter with questions on services to the homeless residents from Partners in the Strategic Plan to *Bring LA Home!* The information provided in this letter serves as a response to the questions based on data compiled from the Housing Element of the City of San Fernando's General Plan, discussions with the Code Enforcement Division, and contacts with local non-profit organizations.

The 1990 Census data on the homeless reported no homeless persons in San Fernando. However, it has been widely acknowledged that the methodology used in the Census for estimating the number of homeless was ineffective in systematically identifying and quantifying the number of homeless persons, which resulted in a substantial undercount. Discussions with City law enforcement personnel, based on a field head-count for the 2000 Census, indicated the number of homeless in the City of San Fernando is 50 or less people. These are the "chronic" homeless that live in San Fernando in makeshift dwellings under bridges, railroad tresses, and by the Pacoima Wash. In general, this group consists of single men, ages 20-55, who are generally alcohol or drug dependant, and/or chronically mentally ill. The police occasionally see itinerant migrant farm workers passing through town to jobs further north. These workers cannot afford to stay in motels, and so are in effect temporarily homeless.

Homeless families with children are also occasionally seen in the streets in San Fernando, or the families may come to the police station seeking aid. The police do what they can to place these families in shelters. A City law enforcement officer indicated that it is easier to find shelters that will take families than it is to find shelters that will take single men.

No emergency shelters are located within the City of San Fernando. However, there is a regional shelter, the L.A. Family Housing Corp in North Hollywood that has a 50-bed



emergency shelter, as well as 68 units providing 275 beds for transitional living. This organization provides up to 90-days of emergency shelter and food and up to six months of transitional housing.

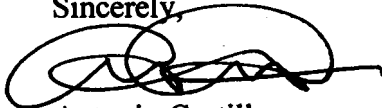
No funds are allocated for permanent supportive housing, shelters, health services, substance abuse services and mental health programs by the City. City staff, however, provides assistance to homeless individuals principally by referring them to local non-profit organizations which provide aid including the following within the City:

- The Salvation Army, located at 1027 North Maclay Avenue, San Fernando, provides emergency services to homeless and persons at-risk of becoming homeless. They provide case management, food, clothing, shelter referrals, and a variety of other services to the homeless.
- Santa Rosa Church Community Center located at 511 Kalisher Street, San Fernando, offers food, clothing, and renter assistance to residents in need.
- The Northeast Valley Health Corporation located at 1600 San Fernando Road, San Fernando, is a medical clinic with a referral service to their North Hollywood Homeless Health Care Service facility.

Other non-profit organizations within the vicinity of San Fernando include the L.A. Family Housing Corp which offers on-site medical care, mental health counseling, a preschool, comprehensive and follow-up case management, job placement, and housing relocation assistance. Also, Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND), a volunteer-driven, non-profit community agency located in Pacoima, serves the poverty-level residents of the Northeast San Fernando Valley. MEND offers a variety of programs which assist homeless residents to meet their basic needs while increasing their self-reliance. During the winter months (November-March), there is a 150-bed cold weather shelter located at the National Guard Armory in Sylmar.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us at (818) 898-1227.

Sincerely,



Antonio Castillo
Assistant Planner

Cc:// Jose Pulido, City Administrator
Paul Deibel, AICP, Community Development Director