



CITY OF

San Fernando
Historic & Visionary

January 7, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Netburn;

This letter is in response to your letter dated on 12-29-2003. In your letter, you requested to receive my assessment of seven critical questions regarding the homeless population in the City of San Fernando.

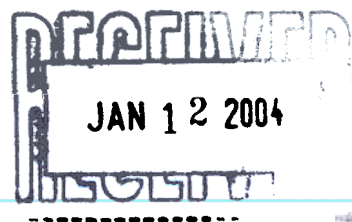
The following response is my sincere commitment to evaluating the homeless population located within the jurisdiction of the San Fernando Police Department, an area of approximately 2.4 square miles.

- Question # 1: Officers under my command annually spend approximately 8 percent of their patrol hours dealing with homeless individuals.
- Question # 2: Both sworn and non-sworn personnel assigned to field duty identify homeless people by self-admittance and/or interviewing them to ascertain permanent or transitional condition.

Question # 3: The San Fernando Police Department spends approximately \$20,000.00 per year on services related to homeless people. This amount is in the form of occasional blankets given to homeless individuals by my officers and the yearly Christmas food/toy drive initiated by my organization to provide relief during the holiday season.

- Question # 4: The practice that this agency uses to prevent homelessness is our essential community policing philosophy. This fundamental principle is inherent to every member of the organization and is the foundation of our core values.

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- Question # 5: The specific changes that would initiate the beginning to a reduction of the homeless people in this City are found in a more concentrated effort to treat mental illness as well as alcohol/drug addicted individuals.
- Question # 6: The specific changes that other organizations could implement that would initiate the beginning to a reduction of the homeless people in the City of San Fernando are increased federal and state funding for programs that prevent homelessness. These measures may be found in the form of drug education, early mental health diagnosis, domestic violence education, and elder abuse prevention.
- Question # 7: The additional outcome that could possibly result from the implementation of the above-mentioned programs is an increased quality of life for all members of the community. In addition, prolonged lives, more active lifestyles, and a clear sense of improved dignity may result from these programs.

I truly hope that by answering these questions I have contributed in some way to the continued success of your program. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony P. Alba". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "P".

Anthony P. Alba
Chief of Police
San Fernando Police Department

APA/tr