

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF
THE YOUTH COMMISSION**

**CITY OF POMONA
TELECONFERENCE VIA “ZOOM”**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Arias-Pulido called the Youth Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Arias-Pulido led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

Chair Arias-Pulido asked staff to take roll call for Commissioners.

Present:

Orlando Arias-Pulido, Chairperson	District 1
Natalie Alvarado, Vice Chairperson	Mayoral Appointee
Victor Tessier, Commissioner	District 2
Javier Rodriguez-Rivera, Commissioner	District 3
Mario Portillo, Commissioner	District 4
Ryan Houston, Commissioner	District 5
Roman Macias, Commissioner	District 6

Staff present:

Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Adrian Valdez, Recreation Supervisor
Mary Sinclair, Recreation Coordinator
Donyielle Holley, Homeless Programs Supervisor
Rosalia Butler, City Clerk
Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

IV. SPECIAL ITEM

1. Administration of Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Youth Commissioners

Rosalia Butler, the City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Youth Commissioner Roman Macias of District 6.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Arias-Pulido made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 3, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Houston, and motion passing with a unanimous vote of 7-0-0-0.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Houston shared that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and Scholarship Award Ceremony will be Sunday, January 17, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He encouraged others to attend

and advised there will be a keynote speaker and scholarship information for next year. For more information, the website is pivmlkproject.org.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Julianna Pena of the Pomona Students Union asked how has the \$1M that was allocated to youth services in September 2020, been utilized to directly serve young people in Pomona.

Yvette Arenas of the Pomona Students Union stated that during summer 2020 City Council meeting, Mayor Sandoval stated he would give \$1M toward youth services. Ms. Arenas asked if funds have been allocated and if not, how will they be allocated.

Arlene Alonzo of the Pomona Students Union asked if a grant writer has been hired to help raise funds for youth services and how can community organizations support them in their role.

Jesus Sanchez, founder and Executive Director of Gente Organizada, asked on behalf of a student, how are young people participating in youth services benefitting from those programs; how does the City evaluate programs, and who is responsible for evaluation of programs.

Chair Arias-Pulido allowed Community Services Mike Osoff to respond to questions asked during Public Comment.

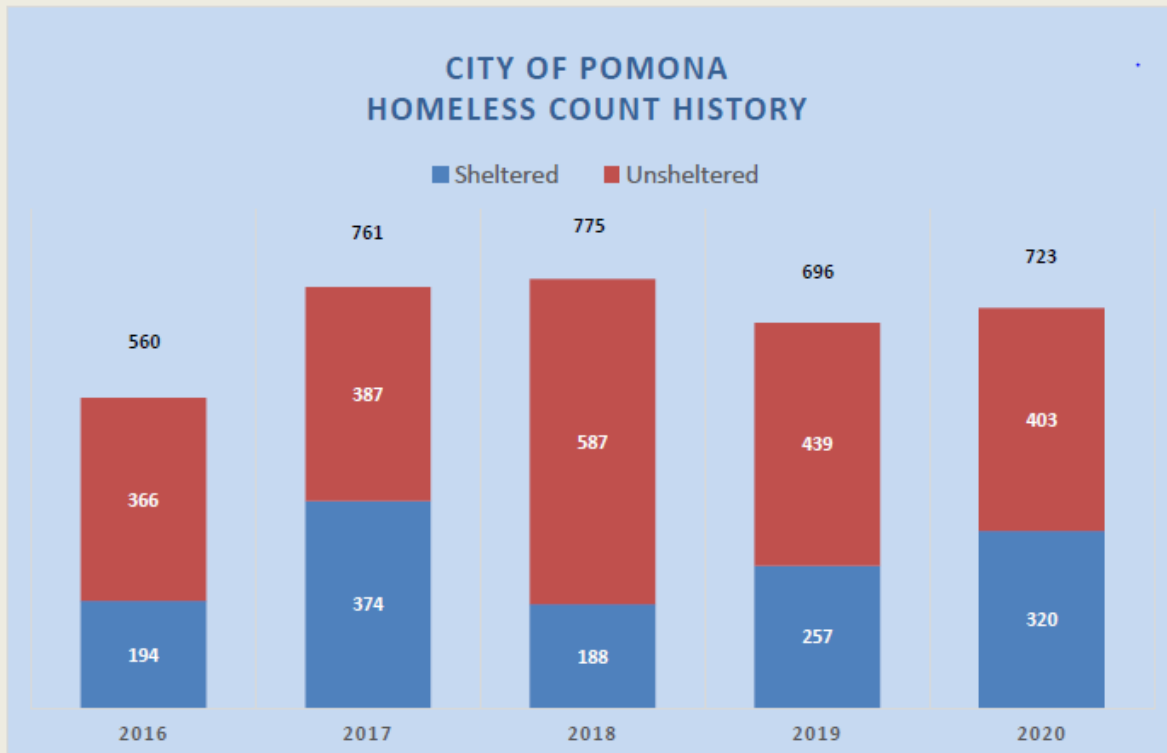
Mr. Osoff stated that staff provided a presentation on youth services budget and programming in October 2020, but since the Commission expressed an interest in learning more, staff will come back to discuss this topic during the February meeting.

VIII. UNFINISHED AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation on City of Pomona Homeless Services

Donyielle Holley, the Homeless Programs Supervisor presented a PowerPoint slideshow (Attachment 1) on the City's Hope for Home homeless services and how the homeless population has been impacted by COVID-19. Ms. Holley stated the model of how homelessness is approached is focused on every person in the City having a home. Ms. Holley provided a background and overview of what the homeless situation is and described what "a point in time" count is. She stated that the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandates that agencies that provide a continuum of care, conduct a homeless count of unsheltered and sheltered count every two years. The City of Pomona has committed to doing a count every year. The last unsheltered count was in 2020 and the City will not have an unsheltered count in 2021 due to COVID-19. The unsheltered count consists of volunteers and staff from local service providers driving around and conducting an observational count on one evening at the end of January. A sheltered count is captured through data tracked by the homeless management information system.

Point-in-Time Count



Ms. Holley presented photos of the Hope for Home center; the shelter portion is a massive fabric structure that has lighting, heating, air conditioning and houses up to 215 individuals. The center also provides locker storage, an essential services building, bathrooms, showers, laundry facilities, a kennel, courtyard, and a communal kitchen. The essential services building, known as the access center are where partnering service partners have offices in the building including a health clinic.

Ms. Holley paused here and asked if the Commissioners had questions.

Commissioner Portillo asked if the center serves homeless youth and how are they served. Ms. Holley stated there are homeless youth at Hope for Home and is continually working toward increasing services for youth. Ms. Holley stated there is a pilot foster youth program that works with HUD in providing five (5) vouchers for youth exiting foster care. The vouchers include housing and are good for three (3) years. During that period, housing, services and training are provided, including self-sufficiency training, increasing entitled benefits, and employment opportunities.

Ms. Holley stated that there is also a regional approach to address homelessness with Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne. While Pomona focuses on adults and the other cities focus on youth and families, Pomona is working toward increasing services for homeless youth.

Vice Chair Alvarado commented that when she sees things like this in Pomona, it makes her proud. She commends the effort to think of things that she had not thought of like kennels and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) showers.

Ms. Holley provided a list and description of site operators and site partners at Hope for Home.



Ms. Holley provided a description of programs services offered at Hope for Home:

Housing Focused Services

- Coordinated Entry/Intake
- Outreach Services
- Document/Benefits Attainment
- Employment Services
- Housing Assistance
- Case Management

Basic Health Care/Referrals

- Basic Primary Care
- Behavioral Health Care
- Substance Disorder Care

Data & Reporting

- Monthly Data Report

- GIS Mapping & Story Maps (New)
- Annual “A Way Home” Strategic Plan
- Updates

Ms. Holley also shared Hope for Home’s mission, vision, and values statement and how they guide the decision-making for the center. She stated there are Five Interim Housing Programs currently operating at Hope for Home:

- Coordinated Entry System Crisis Housing (112 beds)
- Tri City MHSA Crisis Housing (31 beds)
- Emergency Solutions Grant P.D. Crisis Beds (6 beds)
- Home for Good Tri City Cohort (6 beds)
- Bridge Housing Beds (50)
- There are 205 beds currently funded and available for use.
- There are 215 total beds that can be funded.

Ms. Holley discussed the Pomona’s Strategic Plan on Homelessness and described the goals and strategies.

Pomona Strategic Plan Goals

Goal A - Reduce the Number of Pomona’s Unsheltered Homeless

Goal B - Reduce the Negative Impacts on Community Neighborhoods and Public Spaces through the Coordination of Services

Goal C - Have an Engaged and Informed Community Regarding Homelessness and Homeless Solutions

Goal D - Balance the Needs and Rights of Homeless Persons and the Larger Community through Updated Fair, Legal and Enforceable Policies and Ordinances

Successful City Strategies

- Opening of Hope for Home Service Center including year round shelter and access center
- Completion of Communal Kitchen at H4H
- Receipt of additional Rental Assistance Grants
- Creation of Public-Private Partnerships
- Implementation of the Quality of Life Unit through the Officers Assisting the Homeless (OATH) program
- Coordination of City Resources
- Reduction of negative impact on public spaces
- Successful community engagement through collective impact to implement solutions to homelessness
- Creation of the Tri City Cohort –the cities of Pomona, LaVerne and Claremont working collaboratively on solutions to homelessness

Ms. Holley spoke on the impact of COVID-19:

STREET HOMELESSNESS

- Law Enforcement & Outreach Teams distribute PPE & offer services
- Increased visible encampments & street homelessness

PROJECT ROOMKEY (PRK) –Pomona Motel 6

- COVID high-risk homeless individuals
- Seniors & underlying health conditions Demobilizing –No New Intakes
- 115 participants

The Hope for Home has implemented a number of health and safety protocols and works closely with LA County Department of Public Health for COVID testing. There has been a reduction of beds due to social distancing guidelines, quarantine periods, and staff and clients testing positive. Ms. Holley concluded her presentation and asked if there were questions.

Commissioner Questions

Chair Arias-Pulido stated that according to the California Department of Education, there are 2,000 youth that are homeless or have housing insecurities in Pomona. What is the City doing to work with youth and their families? Is there a collaboration with Pomona Unified School District on this?

Ms. Holley stated that funding from HUD is designed for “literally homeless” which means one resides on the street or resides at a location not meant for human habitation. The numbers that school districts use are McKinney-Vento, meaning youth sharing housing or moving locations. The City is working with the school district to find ways to address and provide resources.

Chair Arias-Pulido asked how does the City transport homeless throughout the Pomona.

Ms. Holley stated that bus drivers may allow riders to ride free and there are programs that provide free bus passes.

Commissioner Tessier asked what does the center do when capacity is reached and what is done when homeless individuals come from neighboring cities?

Ms. Holley stated that 112 Crisis Housing beds and 50 Bridge Housing beds are funded by Los Angeles County; therefore, those beds must be available for individuals in the County. Ms. Holley stated there are 205 available beds and 403 individuals that are unsheltered. Though there 205 beds, not every homeless individual wants to be sheltered. There are many phases of homelessness, such as temporary and chronic homelessness, some suffer from mental illness or other issues, and some do not want to be a part of a shelter because there are rules that must be followed.

During the COVID pandemic, L.A. County Public Health has reduced the bed capacity at Hope for Home to 89 beds/participants to ensure safety protocols are met including social distancing.

Chair Arias-Pulido asked if undocumented homeless have resources and a path for a green card.

Ms. Holley responded there are undocumented individuals at the center and other resource providers do not require documentation, such as Measure H that allows housing and rental assistance. However, federal funding does not allow this.

Commissioner Rodriguez-Rivera asked if there are any groups that are rejected to the center, and if so, what groups are they.

Ms. Holley responded all groups are allowed, even sex offenders are allowed.

There being no further questions from the Commissioners, Chair Arias-Pulido opened Public Comment for this Agenda Item No. 1.

Jesus Sanchez, founder and Executive Director of Gente Organizada stated that Pomona Unified School District owns a lot of land and there is a big issue of housing insecurity for families and students. Mr. Sanchez asked if there have been discussions between the school district and the City explore housing projects for families.

Ms. Holley stated that although she is not aware of those discussions occurring, it does not mean they are not. She stated she is open to finding out if they are and thinks it is an excellent idea to bring this up.

Vice Chair Alvarado asked if there is a hotline to report homeless or if someone needed services.

Ms. Holley provided the phone number (909) 593 4796 and the website www.LA-hop.org.

IX. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Staff reported the following updates:

- The Holiday at the Park, which was a festive drive through event, scheduled to take place at Washington Park was cancelled in response to the recent spike in COVID cases and deaths as well as the updated health orders.
- The Virtual Community Center is opening next week and will be open 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. A variety of classes will be offered by local organizations, and class proposal forms are being accepted.
- The Heroes of Pomona Speech Contest will be starting soon.

X. MATTERS INITIATED BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Arias-Pulido adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Youth Commission will be Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Michael Osoff,
Community Services Manager

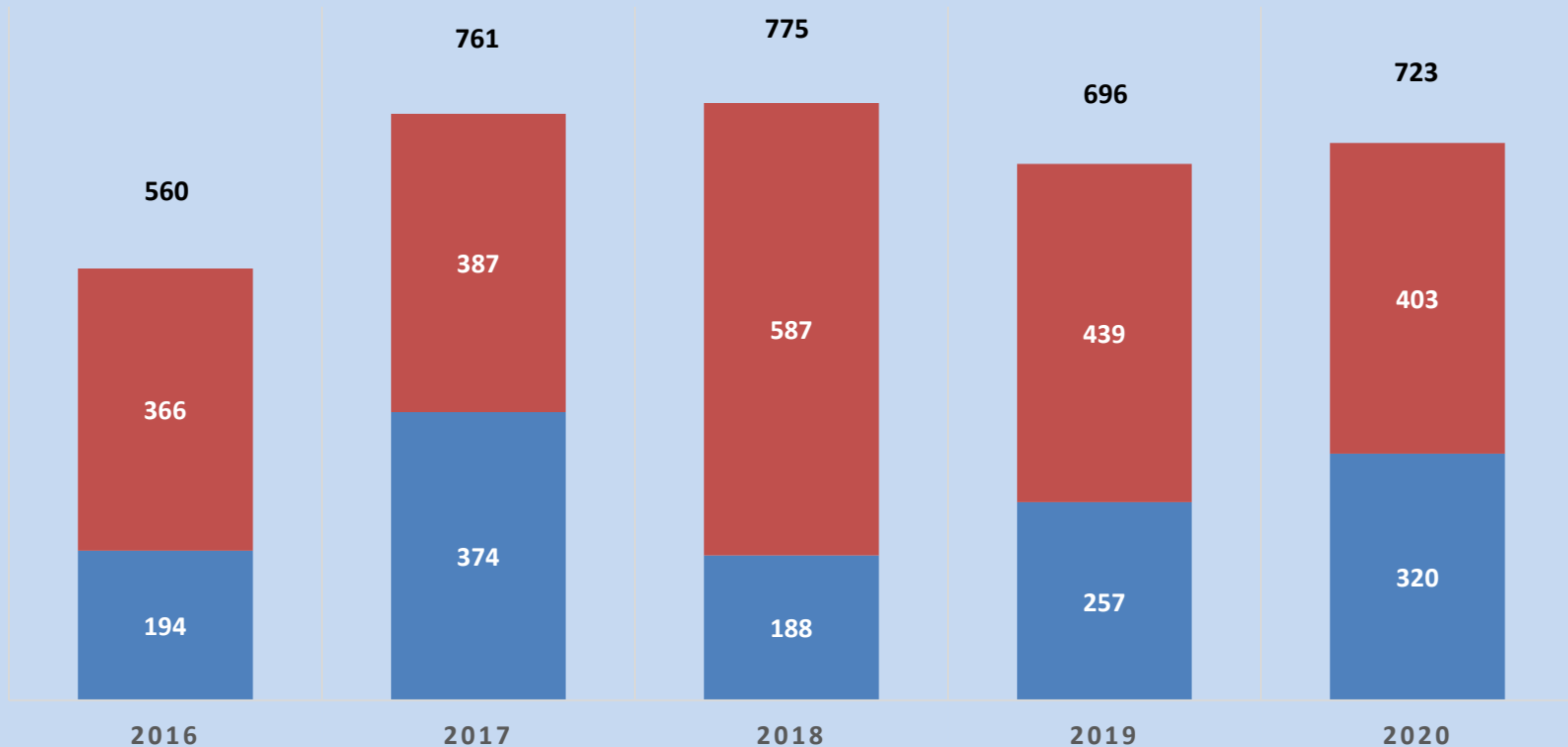
Orlando Arias-Pulido
Youth Commission Chairperson



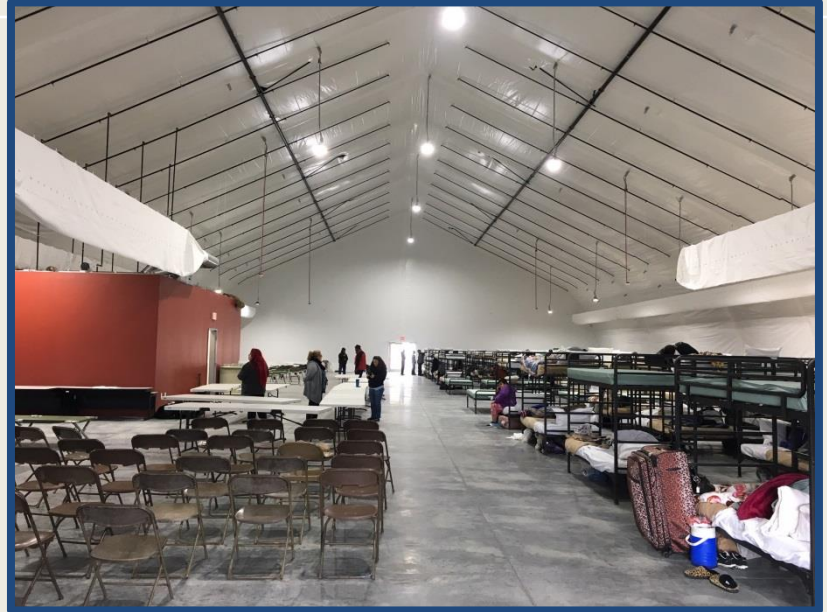
Point-in-Time Count

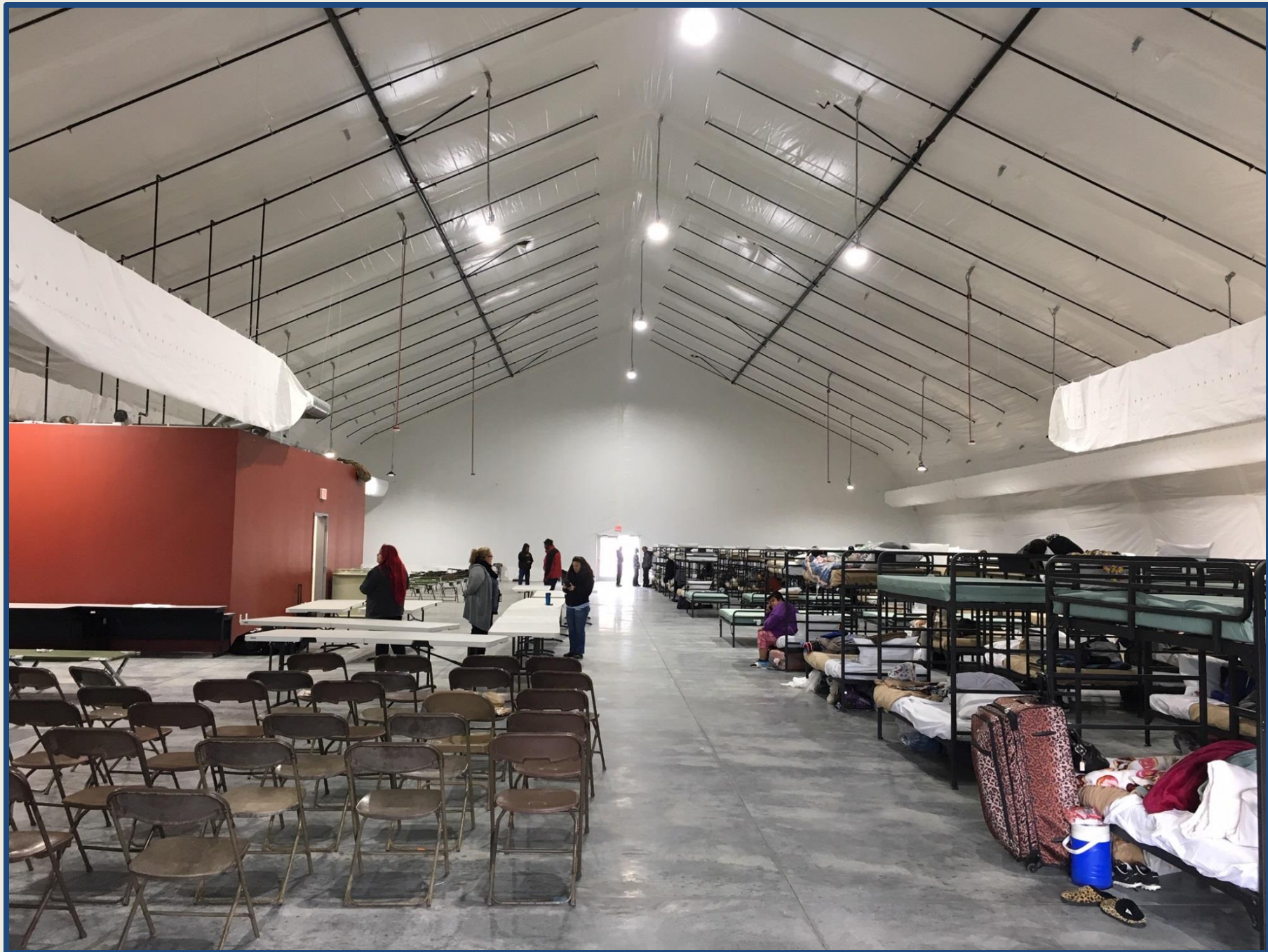
CITY OF POMONA HOMELESS COUNT HISTORY

■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered



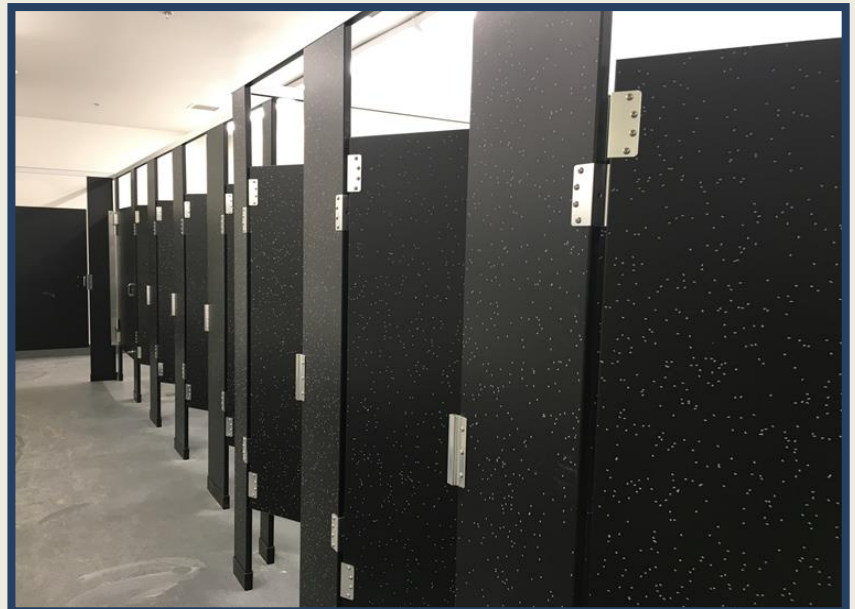
Hope for Home Shelter Interior







Essential Services Building



COMMUNAL KITCHEN



KITCHEN INTERIOR



ACCESS CENTER



Access Center Interior



THE HOPE FOR HOME CAMPUS



Site Operator and Site Partners

Site Operation/Housing Services/Street Outreach

Volunteers of America Los Angeles

Health Services

East Valley Community Health Center

Mental Health Services

Tri City Mental Health Center

Substance Disorder Services

Prototypes

Employment Services

Goodwill Southern California

Law Enforcement Outreach

Pomona P.D. Quality of Life Teams



Program Services

- **Housing Focused Services**
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 - Outreach Services
 - Document/Benefits Attainment
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 - Case Management
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- **Data & Reporting**
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 - Annual “A Way Home” Strategic Plan Updates





MISSION

Hope for Home pursues a mission of restoring hope, creating opportunity, and transforming lives of individuals who are wanting to break free from the cycle of homelessness.

We bring this mission to life every day by collaboratively helping our participants break barriers to obtaining permanent housing, increasing their income, improving their health, and ultimately achieving independence.

VISION

Hope for Home maintains a vision of ending homelessness in Pomona – one person at a time.



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A WAY HOME: COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR POMONA'S HOMELESS

Prepared by:
Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director
Jan Cicco, Homeless Services Coordinator

Authorized by the Pomona City Council on January 9, 2017

*Strategies to
Help Pomona's
Homeless Find
Their Way
Home*

Pomona's Strategic Plan on Homelessness

Pomona Strategic Plan Goals

Goal A	Reduce the Number of Pomona's Unsheltered Homeless
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COVID-19 Impact

STREET HOMELESSNESS

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COVID-19 Impact

HOPE FOR HOME (H4H)

- Implemented recommended COVID Health & Safety Protocols at H4H
- Work closely with L.A. County Department of Public Health for mass COVID testing, quarantines, and recommended protocols
- Work closely with onsite East Valley Community Health Center staff to conduct COVID testing sampling
- Reduction of capacity at H4H (205 → 125 → 89)
- Current Census at H4H = 52 (13 located at PRK)

COVID-19 Impact

HOPE FOR HOME (H4H)

- Quarantine dates including a Safer at Home Order Lockdown in April 2020
- Additional quarantines: 6/08/20 - 7/11/20 - 8/24/20 - 11/03/20 -12/03/20
- 18 clients have tested positive since the pandemic started
- 13 onsite staff have tested positive since the pandemic started
- Limits the new intakes
- Impacts the staffing resources
- Continue to focus on health, safety and removing barriers to housing



Questions

