

Council Report Sept 20, 2011**Task Force on Homelessness & Mental Health Services**

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City Manager Joe Felz then said he would like to conclude the presentation, but Councilmember Quirk-Silva pointed out that no one had yet seen it.

Felz explained that they would work with existing groups. He said there was consensus among "those in the original discussion" that the task force would be charged with identifying practices and steps to build upon services, host forums, and make recommendations to the council. He then called upon Rusty Kennedy to speak.

Rusty Kennedy of the Orange County Human Relations Commission started by saying that his heart went out to Kelly Thomas's loved ones. He said that police training was a primary part of resolving this issue as well as the on-going criminal and internal investigation and independent review of the Fullerton PD. His vision was to pull together people from shelters, those who provide services, and county planners working on a homeless services plan. He recommended open meetings to allow everyone who expressed an interest during comments to be involved in the process. Every first and third Thursday, beginning in October, people could start bringing recommendations for improvements in mental health care.

Mayor Jones followed Mr. Kennedy's comments by stating that there were many people from which the council could pick and choose for the task force.

Councilmember Quirk-Silva said that when she requested the item, it was not to duplicate existing services in Fullerton, such as FIES and WTLC. She also noted that the Fullerton Collaborative had already formed a homeless task force three years ago. But she also recognized the opportunity to take something tragic and to lead those who want to do something. She admitted that every action is valuable, even protest. But she recommended that people find out how to help without wait-

ing for the task force. She said she could be contacted at her city email if someone wanted to know about volunteering to set up and take down cots at the Armory, driving for Meals on Wheels, or helping FIES during their annual holiday distribution.

Councilmember Bankhead expressed his support for Rusty Kennedy heading the task force.

Councilmember Whitaker suggested ordering the points outlined in the presentation starting with public input, then assessment, followed by best practices, etc. He recommended against a "top down approach" and to not "shut out existing enthusiasm within the community."

Quirk-Silva made a motion, inline with Whitaker's comments, to start with a public forum that would be as inclusive as possible.

But before a second to her motion could be offered, former police chief and councilmember McKinley recommended only including those people on the list proposed by Mr. Kennedy and the city manager, starting at the top and ending just after Theresa Harvey, the Executive Director of the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce. This selection excluded Janice DeLoof, Kitty Jaramillo, and Ron Thomas who were at the bottom of the list after the Chamber. He wanted to leave it to the task force to add whomever they determined would help them.

Mr. Whitaker protested McKinley's plan as "the epitome of a top down organization" that would not "bring new energy and new ideas." Mr. McKinley countered with his opinion that allowing a bottom to top organization would be very difficult and that "finding applicants would be too long a process." Bankhead supported McKinley stating the importance of starting this way is to "give access to funds to these people for programs."

The item was approved as proposed by McKinley with opposition from both Whitaker and Quirk-Silva.

OTHER COUNCIL ACTIONS

•**Library Trustee:** Councilmember Whitaker appointed Vicki Calhoun to the Library Board. She will replace Glenn Georgieff who has served for 13 years.

•**Presentation:** Mojave Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution presented a proclamation for Constitution Week Sept. 17-23 honoring the principles of limited government and the rule of law.

•**Presentation:** Acknowledgement was given to Edison employee volunteers.

•**California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention:** Sharon Quirk-Silva was unanimously selected as the city council member to the Fullerton CalGRIP Advisory Committee.

•**Adjustments to Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget:** Julia James, Director of Administrative Services, presented an annual financial summary report for the fiscal year ending in June 2011. Adjustments were approved by the council in preparation for the final comprehensive annual financial report to be available in December. The general operating funds were better than expected by \$1.6 million with the additional funds going towards reserves. The city will close the year with \$11 million in reserve. Asset seizure funds had exceeded the budget estimates. There were additional funds from the Brea Dam from the federal stimulus fund grant and from payments by Fullerton College for use of the Plummer Auditorium. Legal costs were higher than expected and there was an increase to the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget of about \$1.5 million.

Barry Levinson asked that the 2010 expenditures of \$61.4 million be broken down by department the same as revenues from taxes and fees. He also asked how much would be lost to the general fund if the redevelopment expansion were allowed. Ms. James said she did not have the numbers but would follow up.

I asked what would trigger the return of the city employees laid off more than a year ago. Jones replied, "That is a management decision." City Manager Felz clarified that between leaving jobs unfilled and layoffs, there was a reduction of 50 people in the city staff. He said there were no plans to bring anyone back.

•**Community Facilities Districts:** Planning Manager, Heather Allen, proposed changes to the local goals and policies for the Community Facilities Districts (CFD) to bring codes and policies into line with state code. No changes were made regarding the issuance of debt, maximum tax limits, or the amount that taxes can escalate. A new CFD for the parcel of land, known as the former Hughes RADAR site, would not add taxes to the existing developments in Amerige Heights. The item was approved with dissent from only one council member, Whitaker, who does not support CFDs.

•**Special closed session:** Council met Sept. 29 at 10am to discuss 2 existing litigations and 1 new expected case.

**Next regularly scheduled
Council Meeting, October 4.**

**A Class Action Exhibit**

Fullerton residents shown above, Dr. Greta Nagel, president of the Museum of Teaching and Learning, and Cory Aguirre, attorney at law, who served as MC for the event, celebrate with a champagne toast, the opening of *A Class Action*, an exhibit about the struggle to desegregate public schools.

The exhibit curated by CSUF Center for Oral and Public History allows visitors to listen to oral histories of people who attended segregated schools in Orange County and fought to desegregate them. There is also a mock classroom and courtroom, legal documents and artifacts from the time. As part of the exhibit there will be a series of free lectures, panel discussions and film screenings. Go to www.motal.org/events.html for the schedule of upcoming events.

Over 300 hundred guests attended the opening event on September 10, 2011. The exhibit will be on view from 9am to 5pm on weekdays

through June 2012. The Old OC Courthouse Museum is located at 211 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana. Upcoming events:

Oct. 14, 7-9pm: Screening of *Harvest of Loneliness: The Bracero Program* filmmakers Gil Gonzalez and Vivian Price will discuss this groundbreaking film on the controversial system that brought temporary farm workers to the US from 1942-1964.

Nov. 17, 7pm: Screening of *Mendez v. Westminster: Families for Equality*, a film by Erica Bennett followed by a panel discussion.



This photograph of the Ramierz family, one of the families in the Mendez v. Westminster lawsuit which broke school segregation, is one of those in the exhibit.

CORRECTIONS

• **Fullerton Stories** by Taylor Cunningham (page 7 of the Mid-Sept 2011 *Observer*) contained an error. Mr. Barber who runs the news site says, "I was never a writer at the *OC Register* or the *New York Times*. I was a freelance photographer for both, and did very little for the *Register*. The vast majority of my freelance newspaper work was for the *New York Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The error doesn't bother me much, but some folks at either paper might say, "Hey, wait a minute, I've never worked with that guy..." We are sorry for the error.

If you see items that need correction please alert us - thank you!

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