



# CITY OF EUREKA

MAYOR

531 K Street • Eureka, California 95501-1146 • (707) 441-4200

November 17, 2015

Judge J. Hinrichs, Presiding Judge  
Humboldt County Grand Jury  
825 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: GRAND JURY 2014-2015 HUMBOLDT COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT  
CITY OF EUREKA RESPONSE TO "HOMELESSNESS IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY"

Honorable Judge Hinrichs:

The City of Eureka in response to the Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations regarding the issue "Homelessness in Humboldt County", has issued the following response.

## GRAND JURY FINDINGS:

F1. All the current plans to deal with homelessness are flawed by the critical lack of affordable housing in Humboldt County.

F2. A housing trust fund structured as a Joint Powers Authority will provide consistent funding for financing the construction, acquisition, and preservation of affordable housing that would mitigate the lack of affordable housing in Humboldt County.

F3. Humboldt County lacks a county wide approach to homelessness that provides a centralized intake service and coordinated distribution of housing and supportive services.

F4. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and the Eureka City Council have not implemented a major recommendation of the Focus Strategies report to coordinate their efforts on behalf of the homeless.

## GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION:

R1. The Humboldt County Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and the Eureka City Council form a housing trust fund structured as a Joint Powers Authority, which includes the current Humboldt County Housing and Homeless Coalition and other County stakeholders to coordinate and administer Humboldt County's efforts to address and end homelessness. (F1, F2, F3, F4)

**CITY OF EUREKA RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION:**

The Eureka City Council agrees with the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors response to R1 and provides an additional response that the purpose of a housing trust fund would be to create low income housing in Eureka and Humboldt County. The City of Eureka has a long standing relationship with funding agencies to create affordable housing. The original Multiple Assistance Center (MAC) was funded with HOME program funds. The North Coast Veterans Resource Center and the Alcohol Drug

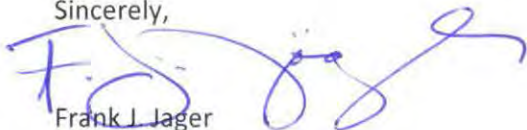
Care transitional and treatment facilities were also assisted with funding through the City. The recently approved senior low income housing project, "The Lodge at Eureka", formerly known as the Downtowner Hotel will be funded with a combination of HOME funds and tax credits in the amount of \$8.06 million. The City is working with other funding providers and developers to provide additional low income housing projects, such as the Eureka Housing Authority and Danco Veterans apartments.

The City of Eureka has fostered an effective relationship with Humboldt County to address homelessness. The County/City have worked closely in planning for the new re-vamped MAC that opened July 1, 2015, and the County awarded \$400,000 of Measure Z funds to the City to fund two police officer positions to work with DHHS MIST team and housing staff for the placement of homeless into permanent housing.

With the elimination of Redevelopment Agencies in California in 2012, current funding levels have been extremely limit and other resources have been very competitive. The City of Eureka would not currently have an ongoing funding stream for a trust fund. However, the City of Eureka is open to the development of a housing trust fund, if this would provide a better means to address affordable housing in the future.

The City is dedicated to provide the information necessary to accomplish the goal of ending Homelessness in our community and has made great advances. The City/County contract with Focus Strategies, a Homelessness consultant, is currently drafting a Homelessness Implementation Plan to assist the City/County in furthering our goals to end homelessness.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Jager  
Mayor

CC: Humboldt County Grand Jury Foreperson