



## Homelessness Workshop | Fresno City Council

FEBRUARY 13, 2014

Bruce Rudd, City Manager

# Homelessness Workshop Overview

- ▣ **Community-wide Collaboration Efforts**
- ▣ **City Role and Resources**
- ▣ **Encampment Effort Update**
- ▣ **Individual and Agency Highlights**
- ▣ **Summary and Task Force Presentation**

# Fresno Madera

Continuum of Care



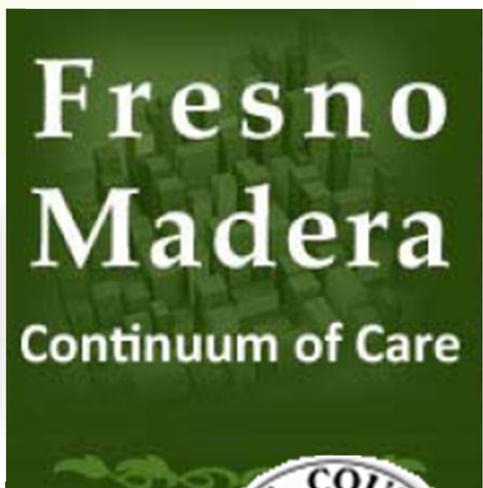
## *Community-wide Collaboration*

*The only lasting solution to homelessness is permanent housing. Far too often, however, we attempt to treat the symptoms of homelessness instead of its root cause.*

Workshop Overview	Community Coordination	City Role and Resources	Encampment Review	Taskforce Report	Individual and Agency Highlights
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# Collaboration

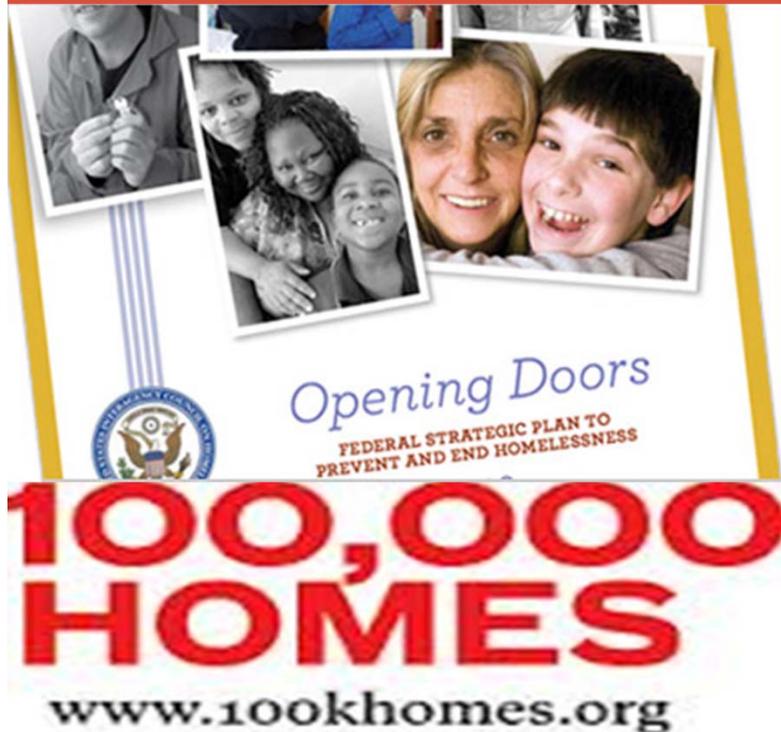
## POVERELLO HOUSE



## Collaboration: Federal and State

**HOME**  
**FOR GOOD**

- ▣ **US Interagency Council on Homelessness**
- ▣ **Ending Homelessness for Veteran's by 2015 – Fresno 1 of 25 High Priority Communities**
- ▣ **SC2 Technical Assistance - alignment of resources (HUD/HHS)**
- ▣ **Opening Doors: Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness**
  - Fresno 1 of 10 priority communities
- ▣ **100,000 Homes Campaign**
- ▣ **California Policy Academy to Reduce Chronic Homelessness**



## Collaboration: Local / Regional

- ❑ **Private Fundraising – Fresno First Steps Home – Nearly \$1 mil in private funds**
- ❑ **Building approximately 170 units of new permanent supportive housing (FHA)**
- ❑ **Continuum of Care**
  - Approximately 20 Service Agencies
- ❑ **2 – 1 – 1 Call Center**
- ❑ **Community Conversation Group**
  - Recognized Need for Additional Shelter Options
- ❑ **Community Connect Events**
- ❑ **Existing beds or housing options among providers: 1,700+**
- ❑ **Boundary Spanner & Outreach Specialist**



## Collaboration: Local / Regional – Housing

### ▣ Recognize Need for Additional Shelter Options

- ▣ Emergency – *Come as you are* shelter options
- ▣ Improved coordination of existing programs and shelter beds – weekly evaluations

### ▣ Existing Shelter and Housing Examples

- ▣ Emergency Shelter: VA, EOC, Marjaree Mason etc.
- ▣ Temporary: Westcare, Turning Point, Spirit of Woman etc.
- ▣ Permanent: FHA, City, Mental Health Systems, Renaissance etc.
- ▣ Other: Fresno First Steps Home, Pov, Fresno Rescue Mission, Faith Based





## *City Related Role and Resources*

*Fresno and its partners are now frequently reference on a national level as a community embracing best practices for addressing homelessness.*

**ORATE**

# City of Fresno: Role and Resources

## ▣ Continued Coordinating with Stakeholders

- ▣ Continue Working with Experts and Developing Best Practices

## ▣ 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

- ▣ Housing First Strategy
- ▣ Currently in Year 5

## ▣ Funding

- ▣ HOME /Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA): 1 Million FY 14
- ▣ Emergency Solution Grants (ESG) – FY 14 to jointly produce RFP with Fresno County for approximately \$650,000 (both agencies)

## ▣ Departments Involved

- ▣ Administration: Policy and Federal/State/Regional Coordination
- ▣ Task Force (CMO, PD, DPU, DARM, CAO)

## ▣ City Policies



## *Encampment Effort Review*

*A comprehensive, community-wide effort to prevent and end homelessness in Fresno.*

# Encampments: Summer 2013



## Encampments: Summer 2013

- ▣ **Began Planning February/Advance Work July 2013**
- ▣ **Areas Surrounding Poverello House and Rescue Mission**
- ▣ **In response to Public Safety, Neighborhood Blight and Community Complaints**
  - ▣ PD Zero Tolerance Effort
  - ▣ Service Providers and Business Owner Safety and Security Concerns
- ▣ **Collaboration of Nearly 20 Agencies to Provide Interviews, Case Management Services, and Housing**
- ▣ **City Developed Taskforce lead by the Police Department**
  - ▣ Strong Partnering Local Agencies, CalTrans and CHP

# Encampments: Clean Ups

## ▣ Locations

- ▣ Initial Locations in 3 Major Areas August-September
- ▣ Additional Locations as Task Force Identified

## ▣ **Fiscal Impact:** Reported in October 2013 - \$141,931

- ▣ \$72,877 employee related, would have been incurred regardless
- ▣ \$69,054 additional direct costs related to clean-up

## ▣ **(559) 621-7788**

## ▣ **City Staff**

- ▣ Training Dedicated Staff – performed in compassionate manner
- ▣ Followed Existing Administrative Order

# Encampments: Clean Ups

- ▣ **Debris Removed (Personal Items Stored Separately)**
  - ▣ 50 trucks
  - ▣ Apx. 500 Tons
  - ▣ 2/3 of City Fleet



# Encampments: Results



## Encampments: Results

- ▣ **FFSH/FHA Contract**
  - ▣ 105 housed/served
  - ▣ 29 already self-sufficient and/or in permanent housing
- ▣ **Improved neighborhood and business conditions**
- ▣ **Providers in area increased services to those in need**
- ▣ **“Community Connect” 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at the Pov**
- ▣ **Reduction in Crime and Fires**
- ▣ **Task Force Recommendations for Additional Efforts**



# *Taskforce Report*

*Presented by Sargent Dewey*

## Taskforce Report: Overview

- ▣ **Identified approx 250-300 people living in encampments during pre-cleanup walk through and during the cleanups**
- ▣ **Currently there are no permanent structures in any encampment area and are seeing between 50-75 people living in area**
- ▣ **Many have left area and have not been seen since, some have accepted housing, some have returned to family, more and more are accepting assistance**
- ▣ **Homelessness Task Force (HTF) has personally assisted 15 off the street and into assistance programs**
- ▣ **Have not seen a “migration” into other parts of town**
- ▣ **Public more aware of their areas and are reporting**

## Taskforce Report: Overview

- ❑ **Individuals contacted outside of downtown and Southwest have been in their areas for years**
- ❑ **Having to educate both the homeless and the public about the new landscape of the Poverello House and Fresno Rescue Mission area**
- ❑ **Continue to encounter same people multiple times as they move around from settlement to settlement**
- ❑ **All are educated on what's available**
- ❑ **Most refuse all assistance and ask where they can “legally camp”**
- ❑ **Drug, alcohol and mental illness in nearly all contacts**

## Taskforce Report: Successes

- ❑ **Maintaining presence in encampment locations, downtown Fresno and Southwest Fresno**
- ❑ **Utilization of Code Enforcement for addressing private property issues, squatters, trespassing, etc**
- ❑ **Utilizing Sanitation for continuous and immediate storage of property for homeless, during a cleanup, arrest or by request**
- ❑ **Zero tolerance enforcement of “quality of life” laws, i.e.; trespassing, urinating/defecating in public, loitering laws, blocking sidewalks, illegal dumping, littering, drunk and disorderly, warrants, etc.**
- ❑ **Developing relationships with the homeless and to be a source of help, not just enforcement**

## Taskforce Report: Successes

- ❑ **Developing relationships with all agencies and NPO's involved in homeless assistance**
- ❑ **Coordinating with these agencies to streamline services available**
- ❑ **Making use of “Mobile” services to bring help to streets**
- ❑ **Joint operations with other LE agencies to address homeless issues that are affecting Fresno citizens (Union Pacific Rail Road, Fresno County Sheriff's Office, Parole, Probation)**
- ❑ **Crime and Calls for Service in encampment areas has dramatically decreased**
- ❑ **Businesses and residents are extremely pleased with results**

# Taskforce Report: Change of landscape

Before



After



# Taskforce Report: Change of Landscape

H St Before



H St Today



## E St Alley Before “Cut Throat Alley”



## E St Alley After Family Safe



# Taskforce Report: Change of Landscape

Santa Clara

Then

Santa Clara St

Today



F-14



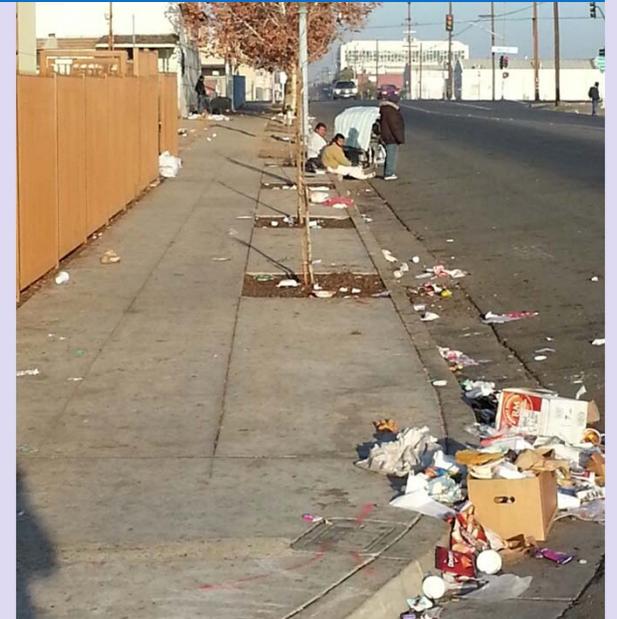
# Taskforce Report: Lessons Learned

## ▣ A Need to Coordinate and Make Community Organizations Aware of Concerns re: Charitable Contributions

- ▣ Traffic
- ▣ Disturbances/Fighting
- ▣ Excessive Trash Left Behind

## ▣ Policy Matters

- ▣ Carts – Hoarding, mobility, health and safety, theft, blight
- ▣ Recycling Centers



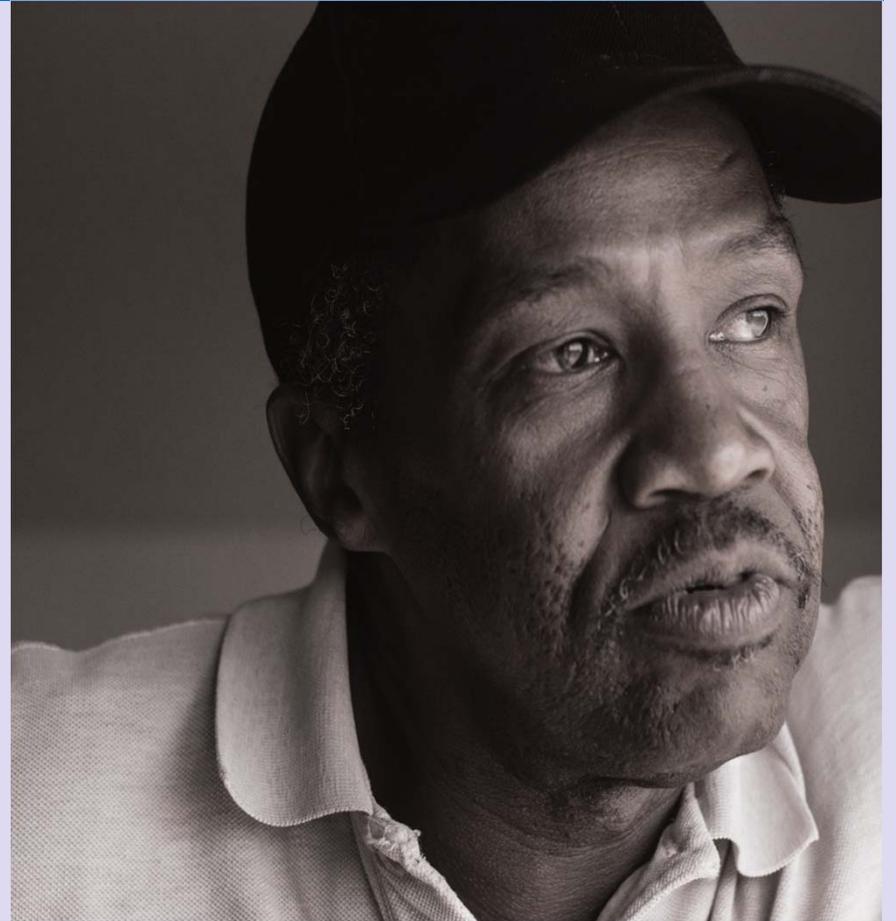


## *Individual and Agency Highlights: Meet Ed and the Poverello House*

**Individuals are homeless for a variety of reasons. Every person on the street has a different story, a different set of circumstances that have led to homelessness.**

## “I never thought I would be homeless.”

- ❑ **Ed was part of the initial outreach this summer and accepted help to find a permanent residence.**
- ❑ **Ed now has a place to call home**
- ❑ **“I now have what I really want – a clean apartment that I can call my own. I’m back in charge of my life.”**
- ❑ **Ed continues to work and pays his monthly rent.**



**When asked about how it feels to have a permanent place to call home, Ed says with a relaxed smile, “I have a feeling of self-worth.”**

# Collaboration

## POVERELLO HOUSE

- ▣ **Charitable Donations/Food Events**
- ▣ **Services Provided to Prevent and End Homelessness**
- ▣ **Collaboration with Other Service Agencies – Housing First Model**
  - ▣ Behavioral Health Collaborative Roundtable
  - ▣ Rapid Results
  - ▣ Homeless Connect
  - ▣ Point in Time, Shelter Plus Care, Homeless Court, Continuum of Care etc.
- ▣ **Positive Effects of Task Force and Clean-ups**

# Summary

- ▣ **There are Services Available for Individuals in Need: 2–1–1**
- ▣ **Continuum of Care – Collaboration of Agencies focused on Services for Homeless Individuals**
- ▣ **Improved Neighborhood Conditions for Residents and Businesses**
- ▣ **Improved Living Conditions for Encampment populations**
- ▣ **Recognize Need to Continue Work Towards Additional Shelter Options**
- ▣ **Much Work Remains...**



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