

Thank you for the opportunity to be here this evening to discuss what we all know is amongst the most important issues the city is working to address.

The recent annual Point In Time count reaffirmed that the homeless population in both the City and the region as a whole is unfortunately increasing.

In the city alone, 5,619 fellow San Diegans are struggling with homelessness; which represents 62% of the total regions homeless population.

It is important to note that although the problem is most acute in the city, this truly is a regional issue and one that will only resolved with all stake holds coming together.

The unprecedented level of collaboration between the city, the county, the San Diego Housing Commission, stakeholders and service providers is truly unprecedented.

We still have a lot of work to do but momentum is building and we are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel.

The recent merger of the regions Continuum of Care with the Regional Task Force on the Homeless under the leadership of Supervisor Ron Robert's and Councilmember Chris Ward is a huge step in the right direction.

We are in the midst of concluding the budget cycle and the Mayor's FY18 budget reflects his ongoing commitment to provide adequate funding for homeless services and housing.

Between the General Fund contributions and federal dollars, primarily from HUD, the city is allocating around \$18.6M for an array of homeless initiatives

Amongst these are;

- Year round Shelter

- Serial Inebriate Program

- Storage for Homeless Property

- City's 3 Homeless Shelters(PATH, Cortez Hill, Father Joes)

Funds for the rehabilitation and/or acquisition of a homeless facility.

As I said earlier. The city is spending more money on this issue than it ever has, because we have to.

I must recognize the fact that even with unprecedented levels of funding our homeless population continues to grow

We recognize this fact and as policy makers are working to ensure that we are adequately using our existing resources as efficiently as possible as well as implementing short term initiatives that will provide relief as we work as a region to implement a long term strategy

We are also looking at learning from the projects that have proven to be successful

For example, Housing our Heroes

As you are all aware, the Mayor made a commitment in the 2016 State of the City to house 1,000 veterans.

To date we have secured permanent housing for 714 veterans and 1,071 units have been made available by the 363 landlords that have chosen to participate in the program.

That is 1,071 PSH units that didn't exist over a year ago and we are working closely with the SDHC to develop similar programs for other homeless sub populations

In the short term we are also looking at;

- Addressing barriers to entry

- Coordinated Outreach

- Emphasis on Prevention & Intervention

- Landlord Engagement

- Implementation of CES

We just concluded interviews with respondents to the City RFSQ for the Assessment Centers and we are working to develop the subsequent RFP.

We definitely have come a long way from where we were but I'll be the first to say that we have plenty of work ahead of us.

We are very fortunate to have a group of intelligent, capable and commitment individuals working on this issue (many of which are on this panel with me) and I am confident that as a city and a region we will address this issue.

Thank You