

## **Homeless Task Force Team**

### **Progress Report April 2017**

#### **Contacts**

After warnings, such as trespass violations, the officers arrested or cited more than 15 individuals in April. It has been the experience of the Homeless Task Force that most homeless do not accept offers to assist with housing resources, as is indicated by the fact that over 30 individuals declined assistance this month. Although the road to substantive housing is often lengthy, the task force looks forward to guiding those who are ready to make a change. We hope that individuals receiving the citations will be among those who eventually decide to accept assistance.

#### **Monthly Highlights**

Officer Ricci and Officer Schloss have trained all police officers on procedures attendant to the illegal lodging letter regarding Penal Code 647. Businesses may avail themselves the option of placing a letter on file with the HBPD. If interested, follow the link to find the letter:

[http://huntingtonbeachca.gov/files/users/economic\\_development/IllegalLodgingEnforcementLetter.pdf](http://huntingtonbeachca.gov/files/users/economic_development/IllegalLodgingEnforcementLetter.pdf)

#### **Points of Interest:**

The HTF facilitated the housing process for a man who has been homeless for many years and has many challenges. Our officer's initial contact was nearly one year ago and the road to housing has been rocky. With the assistance of housing nonprofit and other individuals, this man now has his own furnished apartment. It will take time for him to acclimate, but so far so good.

We are working with a homeless woman who has three children and recently obtained the means to find an apartment unit. We connected her to an organization that will assist with move-in costs. Now, we will follow her progress to what we anticipate will be a successful conclusion in the near future.

One of our placements at Orange County Rescue Mission just informed us that, with Ashley's resume assistance, he was able to find a job. He is now on his way to self-sufficiency.

Many homeless actually have some form of income, but cannot afford rent on their own. Those who are high functioning can actually partner up and help create solutions, but it takes a serious amount of motivation and patience, so it is rare. With a budgeting session provided by Ashley, a homeless man was encouraged find a roommate to share expenses. He did so and is now in an apartment. He was also connected to an organization that will assist him with home furnishings.

Posters asking people not to give money directly to the Homeless, (Hand up not a Hand Out) have been distributed in Downtown merchants and Libraries.