



CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

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Council Member Elaine Gennawey
Council Member Fred Minagar
Council Member Sandy Rains

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee on State Administration & General Government
State Capitol Building, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for \$40 Million Appropriation to the Orange County Housing Finance Trust

Dear Chairwoman Durazo,

On behalf of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing in strong support of the request to appropriate \$40 million to be deposited into the Orange County Housing Finance Trust and utilized for the development of permanent supportive housing (Item 53, heard May 9, 2019).

Last year, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 448, to create the Orange County Housing Finance Trust (OCHFT), a public/private effort to reduce homelessness through the development of permanent supportive housing. The OCHFT is a joint powers authority designed as a collaborative approach to funding housing for the homeless as well as persons and families of extremely low, very low, and low income within Orange County.

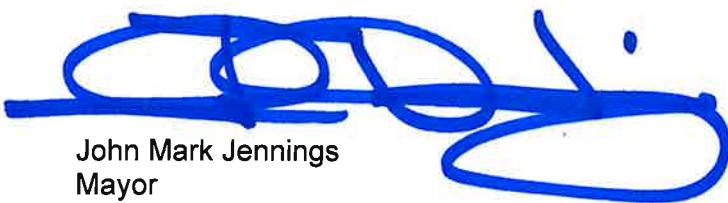
Orange County has prioritized additional funding for permanent supportive housing, which has proven successful in ending homelessness for individuals and families. Supportive housing combines affordable housing with services that help people who face the most complex challenges to live with stability, autonomy, and dignity. These services may include social services, mental health services, health care, counseling, and life and budget planning.

On April 16, 2019, our City Council passed Resolution No. 2019-1281 which allows Laguna Niguel to participate in the OCHFT. This Trust is envisioned to provide a stronger voice for Orange County to secure the region's share of State funds and other funds (including private grants) to help address longer-term housing. In addition, the concept of adding to the supply of supportive housing is deemed to be beneficial to solving the needs of the homeless. We passed Resolution No. 2019-1281 because families, children, the elderly, veterans, and persons with mental illness and other disabilities are all subject to homelessness depending on their individual circumstances and they all deserve our attention and action.

A \$40 million investment to the OCHFT would assist the county in the creation and operation of approximately 200 supportive housing units, and could be leveraged to draw down additional funding to meet the County's goal of constructing 2,700 permanent supportive housing units.

Permanent supportive housing is an effective method for addressing the needs of Orange County's homeless population. The City of Laguna Niguel urges the Subcommittee to approve the proposed General Fund appropriation of \$40 million into the Orange County Housing Finance Trust.

Yours in service to others,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Mark Jennings".

John Mark Jennings
Mayor

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Budget Subcommittee on State Administration and General Government