



City of Placentia Press Release

For Immediate Release

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PLACENTIA'S ACTIONS RESULT IN 44% DECLINE IN UNSHELTERED HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN 2022 POINT IN TIME COUNT

PLACENTIA, CA – The City of Placentia's ongoing efforts to combat homelessness has led to a 44 percent decrease in unsheltered homeless individuals in the City, according to the recent Point in Time Count conducted by Orange County. The 2019 Point in Time Count reported 55 unsheltered persons in Placentia compared to 31 unsheltered persons in 2022.

The Point in Time Count is conducted annually by the County of Orange and the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) to determine the number of people experiencing homelessness in the community. The 2020 Count was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the 2021 Count took place in February 2022.

The 44 percent decrease in unsheltered homeless individuals in Placentia can be attributed to the City's continuous efforts to combat homelessness and the addition of the Placentia Navigation Center, which opened in March 2020 and was developed in partnership with the North Service Planning Area Cities.

"I'm very proud of Placentia and the positive steps we have taken to address the issue of homelessness. The decline in numbers demonstrates that, even though there is more work to be done, we are on the right path, and I'm glad that our City Council is prioritizing this issue," said Mayor Rhonda Shader. "We are fortunate to have the support of our local community groups, businesses, and churches who regularly donate and support the Navigation Center and its efforts. I look forward to continuing to see these numbers decrease as we work collaboratively to help our homeless population be successful."

"The results collected during this year's Point in Time Count are great news for Placentia and the North SPA as a whole because they show that our regional approach is working. Partnering with thirteen cities to agree to this solution and get the Navigation Centers up and running during the peak of the pandemic was a significant first step, and now that they are up and running, I am proud to see the positive impact it has made. I am confident that if we continue to work together, we will see these numbers continue to decrease," said City Administrator Damien R. Arrula.

"Homelessness and the lack of affordable housing impacts everyone in California, but the City of Placentia and partner cities in the North Orange County Service Planning Area have stepped up to help our unhoused neighbors make it home. Through interim housing, case management, and employment services, PATH is able to connect people to long-term housing and provide them the support they need to thrive. While many regions are seeing an increase in homelessness, this data reflects a concerted effort to end homelessness for individuals, families, and communities in Orange County," said PATH CEO Jennifer Hark Dietz.

Thirteen cities in the North Orange County Service Planning Area (SPA) collaborated on a homeless housing plan for the region, which included creating two Navigation Centers (one in Placentia and one in Buena Park) to provide comprehensive supportive services, including vocational services, recreational services, mental health services, transportation services, and 200 beds to the homeless residents of the North SPA. In the second year of operations, the Placentia Navigation Center, operated by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), helped 54 people obtain permanent housing. The Buena Park Navigation Center, operated by Mercy House, helped 41 people obtain permanent housing.

As a result of the North SPA's continued efforts, it was also reported that the North SPA Point in Time Count for unsheltered individuals was reduced by 30 percent, from 1,596 in 2019 to 1,113 in 2022.

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