

HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE BACKGROUND



On January 21, 2015, the City Council created an Ad Hoc City Council Subcommittee for Homelessness. Councilmembers Ginny Foat and Geoff Kors are the Subcommittee members as well as Co-Chairs of the Homelessness Task Force.

The Task Force convenes several times throughout the year with Staff, and 'experts' on the topic from the community. They gathered various organizations to learn more about the existing services available through local providers from supportive services and housing to mental health counseling.

On May 4, 2015, a Homelessness Town Hall meeting was hosted by the City Council Ad Hoc for Homelessness, including Councilmember Foat, the City Manager, the Police Chief, City Staff and members of the public, to address the on-going homelessness issues in the city and to discuss potential solutions. Many members of the public, some of whom are homeless, spoke during the standing-room-only, 90-minute meeting to offer their suggestions on how to help tackle the homelessness issues. Several recurring comments were offered such as the lack of mental health facilities, substance abuse problems, advocates for matching needs with existing services, one-on-one assistance and additional City funding.

A 15-member Palm Springs Homelessness Task Force was established and began meeting in September 2015, which continues to meet every other month, and meetings are posted on the City's website Calendar of Events. Four subcommittees have been appointed – Housing, Jobs, Addiction/Mental Health and Youth – to address these key issues in greater depth.

The subcommittees report their work to the Task Force at each meeting.

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