

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisors John Tavaglione & Jeff Stone **SUBMITTAL DATE:** June 17, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Endorse a partnership between the County of Riverside and the City of Riverside for the 25 Cities project which seeks to accelerate the effort to end homelessness for veterans and chronic homeless by 2015. Districts-All [\$0]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors endorses a partnership between the County of Riverside and the City of Riverside for the 25 Cities Project which seeks to accelerate the effort to end homelessness for veterans and chronic homeless by 2015 through partnerships with the Veterans Administration (VA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**BACKGROUND:** The City/County of Riverside was among 25 communities nationwide selected by both the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to receive training and other resources to assist in accelerating the effort to end homelessness for veterans and chronic homeless by 2015.

This rare designation is the result of Riverside County's success as part of VALOR (Veterans Assistance Leadership of Riverside), to expand access to housing, healthcare, and employment for those who have served their country and now need help with the most basic needs. The success of VALOR includes housing over 400 homeless veterans to date – more than the original goal of 285 set in May 2013. The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside led this effort with a VALOR Housing Sub-committee.

  
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John Tavaglione, Supervisor  
Second District

  
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Jeff Stone, Supervisor  
Third District

**SUPERVISORS TAVAGLIONE & STONE**

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The 25 Cities Initiative asked the local organizing entity, the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside, to identify eight "policy leaders" that would be willing to serve as members of the 25 Cities Project Leadership Team and invited them to participate in a two-day conference in Washington DC in March. The following agencies were represented:

- Housing Authority of the County of Riverside
- Department of Public Social Services
- Veterans Administration Loma Linda Medical Center
- Veterans Administration Loma Linda Homeless Coordinator
- City of Riverside
- Department of Mental Health

A Community Team has been formed and will pilot the creation of a Coordinated Entry System to accelerate and increase housing placements in the western region of the county. This will allow homeless providers to use a common assessment tool and system that can be replicated throughout the rest of the county. The team of homeless providers, outreach workers, case managers and others working on the front line to end homelessness among veterans met on May 20-21 of this year to design the components of the Coordinated Entry System to implement during the next three months.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses:**

This project will provide much needed assistance to Veterans experiencing homelessness in Riverside County.