

HOMELESSNESS PILOT PROGRAM: NEXT PHASE

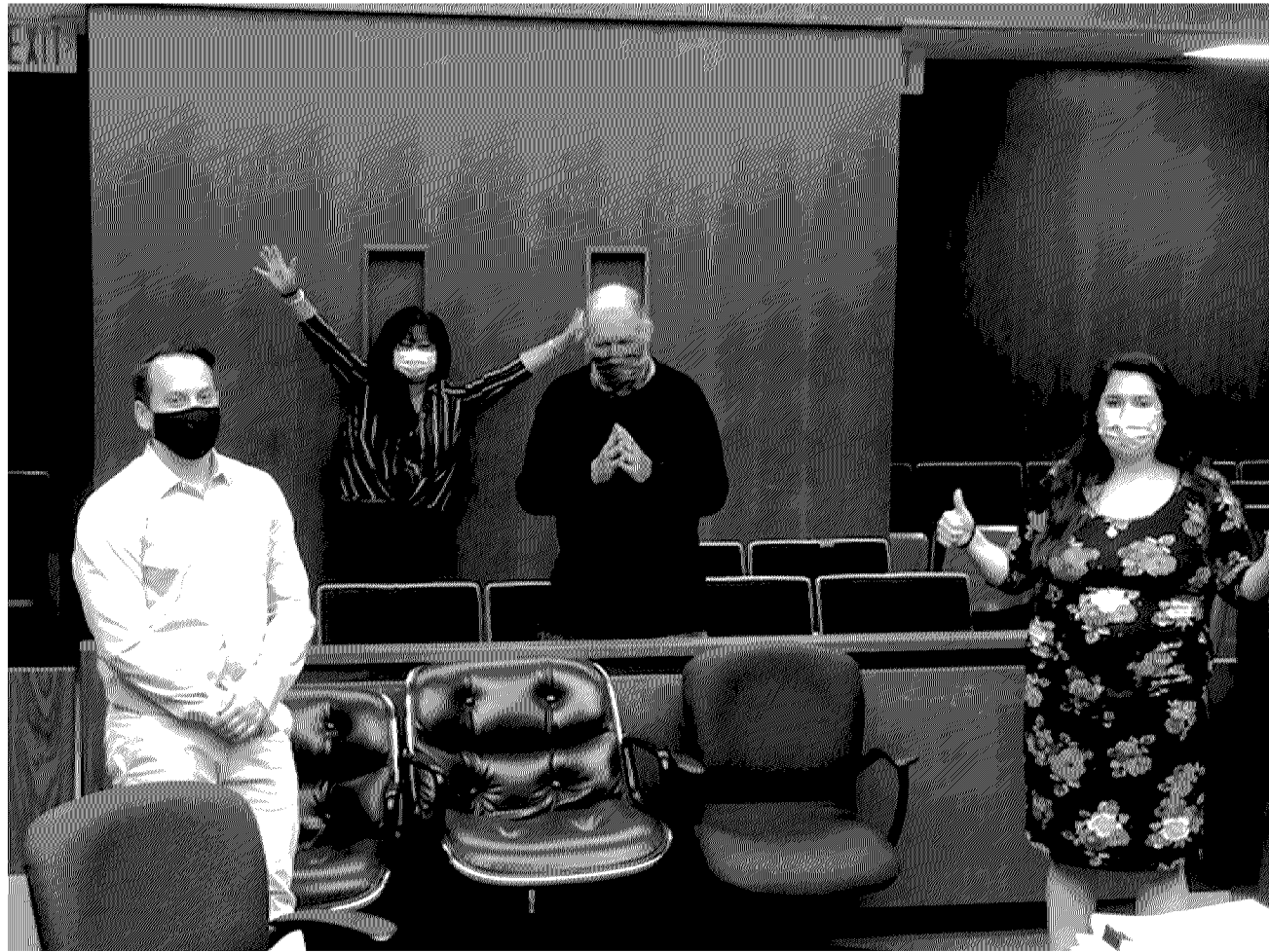
ENHANCED RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS PILOT PROGRAM

- Program was designed to address three categories of homeless individuals that create a disproportionate impact on the local community. Those categories are
 - 1) those with chronic mental illness
 - 2) those with drug addictions, and
 - 3) habitual offenders who live on the street committing crimes of opportunity.
- Homeless individuals in these categories are often unwilling or unable to accept services designed to help their circumstances.

NEXT PHASE

- To further the effectiveness of the pilot program I recommend Council give direction to:
- 1) host the Homeless Court program (currently held in the Torrance Superior Court) once a month for one year;
- 2) prepare and bring back for City Council approval for an MOU for Clear Recovery Center to donate \$5,000 per month of professional clinical services for a mental health treatment program to assist the homeless, with the option to pay for additional services using funds from the SBCCOG grant; and
- 3) prepare and return for City Council approval the documents necessary to rent beds within a collaborative housing program in a nearby city within Spa 8.

HOMELESS COURT



HOMELESS COURT

Homeless Court gives additional attention to those individuals who have impacted the community through criminal behavior with the goals of

- addressing underlying causes of their behavior, i.e. substance abuse and/or mental health treatment;
- getting them “housing ready,” i.e. necessary documents and expunging criminal history; and
- ultimately getting them permanently housed.

HOMELESS COURT

Much higher percentage of court appearances by those in the program than is typical for homeless defendants in criminal cases.

Very tailored conditions of release targeted towards what each individual needs to become “housing ready.”

Lila Omura, and other reps from Harbor Interfaith, appear at all Homeless Court Sessions.

City contract with PATH recently amended to permit their participation as well.

HOMELESS COURT

Homeless Court began in August 2019 and ran uninterrupted until March 2020.

As a result of COVID-19 there were not court hearings in either April or May.

Homeless Court resumed in June and July, but will be dark this month.

Next scheduled Homeless Court date is September 9th.

HOMELESS COURT – COVID CHALLENGES

Travel for Court appearances is more challenging for homeless defendants during the pandemic as well as for Lila Omura who often assists with their transportation.

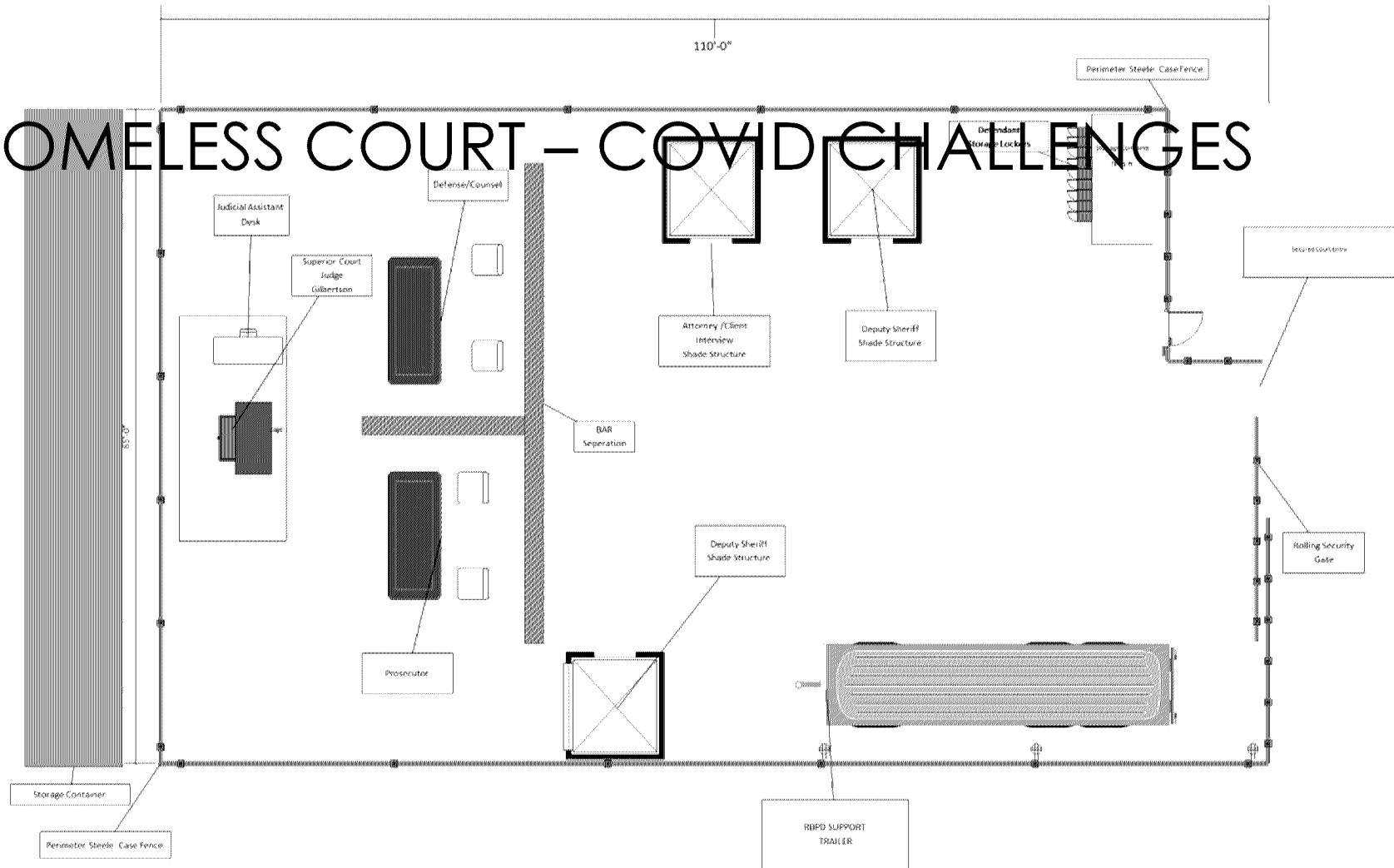
Additionally, having, at times, 20 plus defendants inside a Courtroom at the same time is not optimal for avoiding the spread of COVID-19 and the safety of court personnel

HOMELESS COURT – COVID CHALLENGES

I contacted the Site Supervising Judge of the Superior Court in Torrance, the Hon. Alan Honeycutt, and asked if, given the challenges posed by COVID, they would consider holding the once per month Homeless Court proceedings here in Redondo Beach.

He indicated that he would consider my request. He and the Hon. Rene Gilbertson, the Judge who hears our Homeless Court cases, toured a number of potential sites in Redondo. Eventually, we agreed that the best location would be in the parking area outside the Detective Bureau at 200 N. PCH.

HOMELESS COURT – COVID CHALLENGES



HOMELESS COURT – COVID CHALLENGES

- Although this would be the first courtroom of its kind in Los Angeles County, Judge Honeycutt has agreed to recommend it to the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Gilbertson is also very supportive of the idea. It would take place on one Wednesday per month for a period of one year.
- I strongly recommend that the Mayor and City Council give direction to staff to do everything necessary to host the Homeless Court as described above if the Presiding Judge gives his approval.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

- A significant percentage of the Homeless individuals who end up in criminal court have underlying chronic mental health conditions. Mental health treatment is vital and often necessary to get a homeless individual "Housing Ready." The available treatment facilities are frequently overwhelmed with patients or they are otherwise difficult for homeless defendants to access.
- We have said from the beginning of the Pilot Program that increasing access to Mental Health Services would be an important part of the program.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

- Fortunately, we have located a willing partner to address this unmet need. Clear Recovery Center is a South Bay based mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment provider that provides a full continuum of care. Their treatment is individualized, evidence-based and age-specific in order to give their clients the best possible chance at long term recovery. They pride themselves on their expert clinical team who is highly skilled in the latest in evidence-based treatments and therapies.



MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

- MOU for Clear Recovery Center to donate \$5,000 per month of professional clinical services for a mental health treatment program
- The CA's Office met with them in late February, 2020. We received the proposal attached to the staff report from them in March of this year.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

- I strongly recommend that the City Council accept this generous offer and direct my office to prepare and bring back for City Council approval an MOU for Clear Recovery Center to donate \$5,000 per month of professional clinical services for a mental health treatment program to assist the homeless, with the option to pay for additional services using funds from the SBCCOG grant.

CRISIS/TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- There is insufficient transitional housing available to the Homeless throughout California and particularly to the homeless in the South Bay. Furthermore, there are no homeless shelters in Redondo Beach. We have located beds potentially available for rent in a collaborative housing program in a nearby city within the Los Angeles County Department of Health Service Planning Area 8 (SPA8).

CRISIS/TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- We have also received a generous offer to provide these residents with some after-hours and weekend support services from a licensed clinical social worker from a separate agency who specializes in substance abuse and mental health treatment without cost to the City. Other hours would need to be arranged for. These details are still being finalized.

CRISIS/TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- This transitional housing would be invaluable in helping homeless individuals prepare for and become eligible for permanent housing.
- We're facing a known issue when Project Room Key sunsets in the future and currently housed RB homeless individuals will have nowhere to go.
- Additionally, it is my opinion that the Police may then be able to once again enforce our ordinance which prohibits camping in public notwithstanding the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal ruling in *Martin v. City of Boise*.

CRISIS/TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- Therefore, I recommend that the City Council direct staff to prepare and return for City Council approval the documents necessary to rent beds within a collaborative housing program in a nearby city within SPA 8.

HOMELESS COURT



Recommendation

Give direction to:

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