



GJAOC Summer 2018 Newsletter

President pro tempore's Message

It is with a heavy heart that I attempt to fill the void left by the loss of President Baker. Roy was my panel's foreman in 2011-2012 and we continued our friendship after the completion of formal panel service because of a mutual respect for the Grand Jury system and a concurring opinion that there existed a need for strengthening this citizen oversight responsibility.

We also agreed that the OCGJA should and could play an important part in that cause. We believed that the Grand Jury is one of, if not the only, remaining means the citizens have to investigate and report on official misfeasance. It is also an institution willing to praise and compliment practices and procedures when deserved.

It is my personal hope that the OCGJA becomes stronger and more outspoken regarding the operations of our governmental institutions, and increasingly more prominent in meeting our oversight responsibilities.

Your board of directors is working very hard in its committee work to accomplish the goals of improving our presence in the community through the speakers bureau. Your board is busy working on improving the quality of our presentations, both at association meetings as well as those before public officials. That being said, there is always room for your individual participation. Your advice and counsel as well as your participation would be greatly welcomed. Any of your board members would be very happy to discuss this with you. Grand Jury service does not end with the conclusion of your particular panel. Our members are the only ones who have acquired a certain level of expertise, and it is important for that valuable knowledge to be utilized as we go forward.

Every board member is looking forward to your participation. Every citizen needs it.

Stan Ness

Recap of the GJAOC's June 14 2018 Luncheon

Our June luncheon was well attended and MC'ed by President pro tempore Stan Ness. Our speakers highlighted what various OC cities are doing to address the homelessness crisis. Our featured speaker was Mr. Ken Domer, City Manager of the City of Fullerton. In addition, the Interim City Manager of Anaheim, Ms. Linda Andal and Stanton City Manager, Jim Box attended. We also had some researchers from Chapman University in attendance:

- Dr. Lisa Leitz, Chair of Peace Studies, Chapman University
- Georgiana Bostean, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Environmental Science & Policy Program

who are conducting research in the area of e-Cigarettes/Vaping on youth and adolescents. Finally,

Mr. Kostas Kalaitzidis, Public Information Officer of the OC Superior Courts attended too. Mr. Kostas is Gwen Vieau’s replacement and works with the Court and sitting Grand Jury to help recruit Grand Jurors.

Mr. Domer together with his Fullerton Housing & Neighborhood Services manager, Ms. Rebecca Leifkes gave us an overview of the current state of homelessness in the County, the City of Fullerton and the recent developments spurred by U.S. District Judge David Carter's demands with regards to OC homeless resources. In brief he mentioned:

OC spends \$894 million annually on all social services (incl. CalOptima, food stamps)

Approximately \$26 million are currently spent for homeless services. From the overall budget there is another approx \$55 million that can be spent on additional services directed at the homeless.

OC's cities have been split into 3 Homeless Service Planning Areas (SPA). The idea is that addressing homelessness is best done on a regional/multi-city basis, and by combining resources, the homeless in all areas of the county will be better served. Additionally, those cities with limitations can leverage resources available within other cities in their particular SPA to the advantage of their local homeless (e.g. availability of low-priced land or facilities within a city's borders). The SPAs and their current leaders:

- North – Ken Domer (Fullerton)
- Central – Scott Stiles (Garden Grove) & Jeff Parker (Tustin)
- South – Dennis Wilberg (Mission Viejo) & John Pietig (Laguna Beach, and incoming President of the OC City Manager Association)

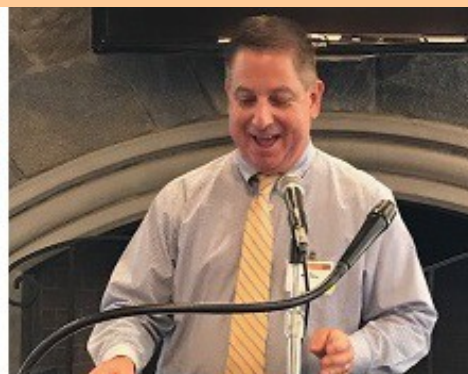
Mr. Domer also revealed that since Judge Carter instructed OC cities to identify and develop additional sites (defined and developed), within each city at which homeless services will be provided. For those cities unable to identify such sites, they will be required to commit real dollars to identified sites within their SPAs, to help share the burden of servicing the homeless. At this point, the identified sites are:

- Santa Ana – Has identified a site for 700 beds (but will close the current 400 bed site at the Courtyard (former transportation center), for a nett gain of 300 beds.
- Anaheim - an extra 325 beds at 3 locales for a nett total of 525 beds.
- Huntington Beach together with unincorporated Midway City will create an additional 75 beds across 2 new sites, for a nett total of 95 beds.

The speakers all emphasized the need for all OC cities and the county to work together to make meaningful progress on this issue; and underscored the benefits accruing to all residents of OC, of helping the homeless get off of the street and to achieve self-sufficiency.



Fullerton City Mgr Ken Domer & Interim Anaheim City Mgr. Linda Andal



Stanton City Mgr. Jim Box

2017/18 OC Grand Jury Reports

The current OC Grand Jury finishes its term in 5 days, so we all know what that means: a flurry of activity to ensure their reports are finished on time. Until now, they have published 8 reports, all of which have received notice in the press. The reports thus far:

- Orange County Fire Authority – Financial Flames on the Horizon? (03/20/18)
- Safer Schools – What Can We Do? (05/03/18)
- Jail Food: Reservation Required (05/29/18)
- Where There's Will, There's a Way: Housing Orange County's Chronically Homeless (05/31/18)
- Orange County Landfills: Talking Trash (06/19/18)
- Can the Emergency Operations Center Survive a Catastrophic Event? (06/20/18)
- Competition or Collaboration – Orange County's Public Agency Helicopters (06/22/18)
- Preventable Deaths in Orange County Jails (06/25/18)

This author took particular note of the first report which highlights the precarious financial situation that the OCFA finds itself in, as its majority financial contributor, the City of Irvine, considers leaving the group in a dispute over its required oversized annual payment. Equally timely is the report on housing for OC's chronically homeless population. The report makes a strong case for the county and all OC cities working together to establish Permanent Supportive Housing as a critical element to addressing the homelessness problem and reducing its physical and emotional toll on those experiencing homelessness, as well as the many costs it places on all OC governments (e.g. Crime, emergency room utilization). As always, the reports can be found online, at: www.ocgrandjury.org/reports. We recommend GJAOC members take a look at these timely reports as the issues they address continue to dominate local news.

GJAOC Speakers Bureau by Sandy Dunkin

The Speakers Bureau members are busy scheduling speaking engagements with various community organizations for the next Grand Jury recruitment period. According to Kostas Kalaitzidis, PIO of the OC Superior Courts, the upcoming recruitment for the 2019-2020 Grand Jury may start earlier than in past years, in order to allow additional time for processing and background checking on applicants.

Anyonw who is aware of an opportunity for the Speakers Bureau to make a presentation at a community organization or academic institution should contact Sandra Dunkin, Chairperson, by email at BDUNKSDUNK@YAHOO.COM. The Speakers Bureau has several talented speakers lined up and ready to make presentations.

The GJAOC Needs You!

The Nominating Committee is recruiting members to become directors of the GJAOC. The slate of nominees will be presented at the September Meeting and Luncheon & ballots will be distributed for the election. Each term is 2 years with 6 of the 12 positions open each year.

Our association needs you! Please contact Lynn Bonas, lynn.bonas@gmail.com for more information. Thank you!

Next GJAOC Luncheon will be held on: Thursday, September 13, 2018

Our next luncheon speaker will discuss a topic that is becoming a greater concern day by day. As e-Cigarettes and vaping become more popular, especially among young people, what should be our attitude towards this habit? What have we learned in the fight against cigarette smoking that can inform our approach to handling this new habit? Join us on September 13 2018 to find out more on this fascinating topic.