



**City of Santa Barbara**  
Planning Division

**Memorandum**

**DATE:** December 13, 2018

**TO:** Planning Commission

**FROM:** Kelly Brodison, Associate Planner *KAB*  
Allison De Busk, Senior Planner *ALB*

**SUBJECT:** 816 Cacique & 110 S. Quarantina Streets  
**People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)**  
Two Year Progress Report – Continued from October 4, 2018

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The Conditional Use Permit for the homeless shelter currently known as People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) was approved in 1999. At that time, the Planning Commission imposed a condition of approval requiring that the operator of the facility return the Planning Commission every two years to report on condition compliance, overall operation of the facility, complaints received and the operator's response to those complaints, parking usage and any other items of concern that may arise.

The 2018 meeting was scheduled at the Planning Commission on October 4, 2018, and was postponed to December 20, 2018 in order to allow PATH Neighborhood Partnership to prepare a report of their activities since the last Planning Commission update. This Report, attached herewith, is to be included with the original Staff Report dated September 27, 2018.

Attachment:

1. PATH Neighborhood Partnership 2018 PNP Report to Planning Commission



**PATH Neighborhood Partnership**  
(Formerly Milpas Action Taskforce)  
Problem-Solving Approach

**Responsibilities**

Monitor progress of People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) and City in meeting their action plan objectives and commitments.

Monitor neighborhood conditions (where problems exist and where improvements have taken place).

Decide on appropriate action to resolve problems.

Discuss challenges and opportunities with the neighborhood surrounding PATH with the intention of taking responsibility for making improvements and creating success stories.

Determine how to apply neighborhood watch/cleanup/outreach resources.

Utilize diverse ad-hoc subcommittees to develop specific options and initiatives.

Build support for PATH's 2-year PC report.

**Principles of Engagement**

Offer respect and attention

Ask for clarification

Avoid characterizing interests

Acknowledge and try to understand others' concerns

Refrain from side conversations

Silence cell phones

Share responsibility for success

Best good faith efforts

Honor commitments

Share information early

PNP-approved media outreach

Represent constituencies

Inform PNP regarding constraints on decision-making

**Decision Making**

Strive to achieve decisions on matters of substance by consensus.

Articulate interests, propose alternatives and listen.

*Excerpted from Approved Meeting*

**PATH Neighborhood Partnership  
2018 PNP Report to Planning Commission:**

This report is submitted by the Chair and Vice Chair of the PATH Neighborhood Partnership (PNP) as a part of PATH's 2018 Progress Report to the Planning Commission.

For the past few years PNP has been directing its efforts and energies in the area immediately surrounding the facility. The presence of PATH Security Manager and daily patrols have a direct impact on activities in the area and are directed by the PNP to work on specific "hot spots" on an as needed basis. Membership within the PNP has also shifted to include members from Railroad Square, which has focused attention to what is now the vacant property at the corner of Cacique and Quarantina Street, recently purchased by Marborg. It is hoped that their ownership of the site will lead to more direct resolution of camping and trespass issues.

PATH has provided some much-needed stability, and changes over the last several years have been positive. PATH has been much more open in their communication with the neighborhood. Providing lunches only to those enrolled in their programs has also reduced the daily midday influx that disrupted business activity in the area. From its first three years of operation PATH has shown that they are willing to engage in working to find answers to neighborhood concerns. Their efforts to house those who are homeless are appreciated.

The lower Milpas neighborhood is a unique crossroad. With the east/west corridors of the beach, US 101, and the railroad tracks being intersected with Sycamore and Mission Creeks, unseen travel paths and camping opportunities exist for those who wish for whatever reason to remain out of public view. The Cabrillo ball park and Dwight Murphy Park are open grassy areas and the beach is another open area where the homeless tend to congregate. This has led to persistent issues that affect the peaceful enjoyment of those who live and choose to do business in the area.

The PNP appreciates the efforts of the Police Department in responding to issues raised at its meetings, especially homeless encampments. However, this is a complex situation and homelessness is not a problem easily fixed. Despite the best efforts of those involved, illegal activity and nuisance issues continue to vex the East Beach/Milpas area. The limits on the Police to address these nuisance behaviors, the over-burdened court system, and the lack of jail space results in frustrations from those who live, work, and do business in the area.

The Milpas Community Association has been reporting an influx of a new homeless population with a greater level of arrogance and aggressive behavior. A higher level of alcohol consumption and drug use have been witnessed. There has always been a belief that homeless come to the area thinking they would have immediate access to a bed at PATH. While it may be true for some of this new population, most of those causing the greatest problem in the area do not want to be in a program like PATH provides.

The PNP has also been monitoring a City project to develop a new alcohol ordinance. It is hoped that additional conditions could be placed on existing alcohol sales establishments to pressure them to eliminate sales to chronic inebriants, patrol their properties, and otherwise conduct business responsibly within the community, under penalty of losing their ability to sell alcohol.