

NEWS

From the Office of

Brad Mitzelfelt

Supervisor, First District
San Bernardino County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2, 2009



For information, contact
David Zook (909) 387-4830
www.sbcounty.gov/mitzelfelt

Mitzelfelt Appoints Barstow Mayor Joe Gomez to Homeless Council

SAN BERNARDINO – First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt this week appointed Barstow Mayor Joe Gomez to serve as the District’s representative on the new Interagency Council on Homelessness.

“I would like to thank Mayor Gomez for committing to serve on this important new body,” said Supervisor Mitzelfelt. “Homelessness is a persistent problem and I’m confident Mayor Gomez will bring energy and fresh ideas for delivering services and support to those who need it.”

Mayor Gomez is one of the first seated members the County’s Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), which is patterned after the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

“It’s an honor to serve on this council, especially considering the high homeless rate in Barstow,” said Mayor Gomez. “I would like to thank Supervisor Mitzelfelt for this opportunity to offer input and suggestions to reduce homelessness in the High Desert and throughout the County.”

In the most recent survey of homelessness, Barstow had 184 homeless people, which was more than twice the per capita rate in the County. The total homeless population Countywide was 7,331. Those counts are based on a one-night survey in 2007, meaning the actual number of homeless at any time varies considerably.

The 22 members of the County’s new ICH will be drawn from the Board of Supervisors, elected officials, senior staff from various County departments, along with representatives of the Public Housing Authority, Specialty Courts, Superintendent of Schools, and community and faith-based organizations. It is expected the Council will hold its first meeting in mid to late August once all the seats are filled.

The ICH was implemented to satisfy one of the recommendations in the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness in the County of San Bernardino. The ICH will coordinate and evaluate policies concerning the proposals and related activities recommended in the 10-Year Strategy coordinated by the Office of Homeless Services.

The Office of Homeless Services, approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2007, will serve as administrative support for the ICH and act in an advisory capacity.