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FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

5TH DISTRICT

ROADMAP TO REVITALIZATION
A PLAN FOR HEALTHIER AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

APRIL 9, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Memo	page 1
Homelessness	page 2
Bloomington Investment Program	page 3
Little 3rd	page 4
Muscoy	page 5
Arrowhead Farm	page 6
Rialto	page 7
Colton	page 8
Rosena Ranch	page 9
Glen Helen Regional Park	page 10
Devore Animal Shelter	page 11
Sources of Funds	page 12

Leonard X. Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer

Re: Roadmap to the Revitalization: A Plan for Healthier and Sustainable Communities

On behalf of Fifth District residents I sincerely thank you and your staff for your support in making the transition of leadership as smooth as possible.

In my time in office, I have listened to the concerns of my constituents, business leaders, community groups, and working families regarding the need for improved infrastructure and enhanced public services in our unincorporated communities. These concerns have been exacerbated because of the devastating impact of COVID-19 to the current job market and businesses. Understanding these concerns, it is vital that we collaborate in developing a framework that addresses the demands of these key community stakeholders, by providing a path to invest in our unincorporated communities and boost our local economy. Accordingly, this document provides a Roadmap to Revitalization for the Fifth District.

After reviewing the County Budget and Mitigation Plan Recommendation, it is clear that the Chief Executive Office has been a good steward of our county's resources and we are well positioned for the future. Consequently, I want to note a couple of personal observations of positive financial outlook. For example, our State's 2021/22 proposed budget combined allocation of \$10B dollars in COVID-19 Response and Recovery, Homelessness Assistant Programming/Project Home Key/Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Grants (HAPP 3.0), and Project AIM to local and counties governments. Additionally, the American Rescue Plan which will deliver over \$422M dollars to our county.

These unique circumstances provide an opportunity for us to partner by focusing on critical areas in my district during the 2021/22 fiscal year budget. One area includes **homelessness**, where we can tackle this crisis by instituting the Social Work Action Group (SWAG) innovative model which has been proven to deliver results. Other priorities include: the **Bloomington Investment Program**; providing critical infrastructure in the unincorporated areas of **Little 3rd, Muscoy, Arrowhead Farms, Rialto, Colton, and Rosena Ranch**; enhancing the recreational park facilities in both **Kessler and Glen Helen Parks**; and addressing deficiencies at the **Devore Animal Shelter**. I look forward to partnering with you to implement the Road to Revitalization. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

JOE BACA, JR.
Supervisor, Fifth District

HOMELESSNESS

A growing number of people are experiencing homelessness in San Bernardino County, which is proliferating across California and the entirety of our nation. In 2020, an estimated 3,125 people in our county experienced homelessness, 1,466 people were homeless in San Bernardino's Fifth District. A significant number of this population are classified as chronically homeless defined as being without shelter for 12+ months and having a disability such as a physical health condition, mental health condition, and/or substance abuse disorder. Without stable housing, chronically homeless individuals cycle in and out of hospital emergency rooms, inpatient hospital stays as well as psychiatric centers, detoxification programs, and jails resulting in escalating cost to local government.

To truly combat homelessness, we must share a **collaborative vision which will provide immediate solutions, measurable outcomes, and efficient use of our limited resources.** We cannot accept the notion "they don't want help," because everyone deserves safe and stable permanent housing. We cannot expect the individual to adapt to our program, instead, we must tailor our program to the individual.

Therefore, I am recommending we work with the Social Work Action Group (SWAG), an established group of professionals dedicated to assisting individuals who are facing a variety of mental, health, and physical challenges. SWAG has a unique individualistic approach to homelessness that implements best practices and delivers measurable results.

SWAG will work with San Bernardino County Behavioral Health and the Sheriff HOPE Team, local police departments, and local hospitals to identify the top 100 individuals that are both chronically homeless and "Super-Utilizers" of emergency mental health facilities/5150's, emergency medical visits/ resources, and jail bookings. **SWAG will assist annually a minimum of 50 "Super Utilizers" and a minimum of 100 chronically homeless individuals to exit life on the streets** through connection to mental health and substance abuse treatments and emergency, transitional, and permanent housing.

The SWAG model provides consistent outreach and case management services to those most in need with the ultimate goal of permanent housing. SWAG will reduce the homeless population both visibly and documented through the annual Point-in-Time Count. Simultaneously, SWAG will engage, educate, and encourage the community of San Bernardino to collaborate efforts and spread the message of Responsible Compassion.



BLOOMINGTON INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Bloomington is a unique community that values family, independence, and having healthy neighborhoods with improved air quality and expanded park facilities and recreational programs.

As part of having a thriving community, it is important to have recreational spaces where families and children can gather safely. Within Bloomington, we must have safe routes to school and vibrant recreational spaces at Ayala and Kessler Park with the newest and safest park amenities that other county parks enjoy.

It is my hope Bloomington will reap from the community benefits agreements with future proposed industrial developments and the current agreement stemming from the West Valley Logistics Development in Fontana. Annual funding from this agreement will range from \$800,000 to \$1.2M per year to provide key public services and quality of life enhancements to the residents of Bloomington. My requests are consistent with the priorities identified in the local community plans.

- **Law Enforcement**
 - Two (2) Sheriffs
 - Bloomington decal on Sheriff's car
 - Shifts (including weekends)
- **Dedicated Code Enforcement Officer (1)**
- **Two (2) Full-time Maintenance Workers for Kessler and Ayala Park**
- **Kessler Park Improvements**
 - Walking paths around playfields
 - Dodger Dream Field
 - ADA Compliant Bathrooms
 - BBQ grills and coal receptacles
 - Decorative gating of the parking lot
 - Slurry seal of the parking lot



LITTLE 3RD

Little 3rd is a working-class community located north of 3rd street, south of Vine Street, east of Waterman, and west of Tippecanoe. This community is an island in the city of San Bernardino that has been long ignored which has resulted in a lack of physical infrastructure and maintenance. Little 3rd is the only community in the Fifth District that has seen a significant increase in crime with numbers growing from 2,330 in 2019 to 2,444 in 2020. The increased number in crime is troubling and may not reflect accurate statistics due to the under reporting during the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to align this community with the county's vision, we must prioritize the following items to improve the quality of life in Little 3rd:

- **Sidewalks, curbs, and gutters:** The condition of this area is concerning due to inaccessibility and the lack of ADA compliance.
- **Street Improvements:** A thorough assessment of the areas' road quality is overdue and a specific plan is necessary that includes: street repaving and street lights.
- **Flood Channel:** Adequate maintenance and fencing are required.
- **Safe Routes to School:** To create improved walkability and safety I am requesting we apply for Safe Routes to School program funding for the area within proximity to Monterrey Elementary School.



MUSCOY

The Community of Muscoy is a unique area that enjoys independence and a country feel. However, the proximity of various communities creates traffic congestion, pedestrian accidents, and deterioration of county roads and streets, including State, Macy, and Duffy Street.

The Muscoy community is concerned for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists who use their roadways to access area businesses. In order to mitigate the concerns, we should implement traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds. These measures will encourage motorists to stop, shop, and eat at the community's stores and restaurants.

Additionally, we must apply for Safe Routes to School program funding and identify methods to reduce traffic congestion around our schools. In order to revitalize Muscoy towards a safe and vibrant community we must implement the following items:

- **Complete a motorist/bicyclist/pedestrian traffic study:** The study shall include a set of strategies for streets and construction improvements.
- **Sidewalks, curbs, and gutters:** As we know the community of Muscoy has historically been a ranch-style community which would explain the lack of sidewalks, curbs, and gutters however over time Muscoy has grown to become more diverse including families with children and businesses that deserve to have safe streets and sidewalks in their communities.



ARROWHEAD FARMS

Arrowhead Farms is a small county pocket that consists of a variety of single-family homes, multi-housing units, businesses, and churches. It is also home to Cajon High School, San Bernardino County Fire Station 227, and the Newmark Little League. This diverse community shows numerous years of deferred maintenance and requires the following attention to these items:

- **Street repaving/slurry seal:** Numerous roads have been neglected throughout the community with visible deterioration, cracks, and potholes.
- **Sidewalks, curbs, and gutters:** Multiple areas do not have sidewalks, curbs, or gutters to offer the community walkable paths within their neighborhoods. These deficiencies pose quality of life issues for constituents lacking transportation and who have disabilities.
- **Code enforcement, graffiti, and weed abatement:** It is my goal to ensure we are creating safe and healthy communities that discourage crime. We must consistently enforce multi-housing unit code violations, encouraging the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, and remove graffiti to provide an increased quality of life.
- **Flood Control Maintenance:** The flood controls are littered with trash and illegal dumping, and are in need of structural repairs after years of neglect.
- **Safe Routes to School:** To improve walkability and safety we need to apply for Safe Routes to School program funding for the area near Cajon High School.



RIALTO

The city of Rialto is incorporated however, there is a small unincorporated area that lays within the county maintenance responsibility on the northern end of Rialto that requires infrastructure improvements and maintenance upkeep. There is also an unincorporated area located near Carter High School and near El Rancho Verde that needs crucial infrastructure improvements. A comprehensive plan must be developed that undertakes an assessment of the areas below and utilizes capital infrastructure funding mechanisms.

Carter High School (located on Linden, Locust, Boehner, Vineyard, and Maple)

- Street repaving
- Flood control channel
- Sidewalks around Carter High School
- Safe Routes to School
- Septic to Sewer

El Rancho Verde

- Street repaving
- Traffic mitigation

Easton Avenue and Willow Avenue

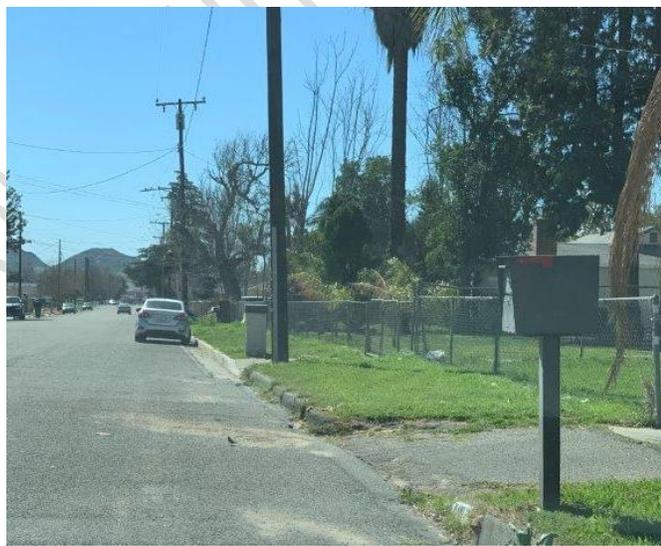
- Street repaving



COLTON

Unincorporated San Bernardino County comprises a small island in Colton. Colton has made numerous strides in infrastructure and development within its city boundaries. We must ensure that the unincorporated areas within our purview not only reflect the city's aspirations, but our county's vision to provide a sustainable system of community health, public safety, and infrastructure. To meet our aims, it is necessary to make the following improvements:

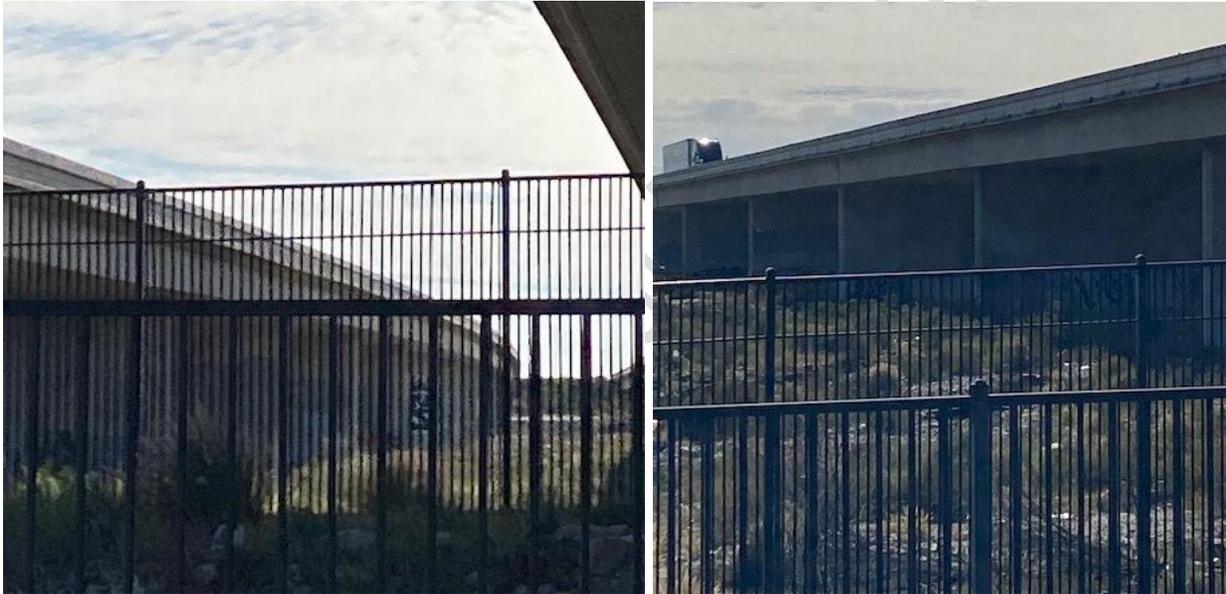
- **Sidewalks, curbs, and gutters:** Multiple areas do not have sidewalks, curbs, or gutters to offer the community walkable paths within their neighborhoods. This is of heightened importance as it poses quality of life issues for constituents lacking transportation and who have disabilities.
- **Code Enforcement:** There are multiple locations that are graffitied and experience high volumes of illegal dumping. We need to have more frequent and consistent enforcement in this community.



ROSENA RANCH

Rosena Ranch is a newer housing development that includes Paakuma Elementary School. This community has benefited greatly from the infrastructure agreements made with developers and the institution of Homeowner Association dues. However, the community has reached out to my office expressing concerns about safety and graffiti. I recommend the following:

- **Code Enforcement:** There are multiple locations that experience graffiti and greater efforts should be made to remedy these issues, helping improve the quality of life.
- **Safety:** The issues of burglaries and theft are a high concern in this area and require a heightened sheriff presence to ensure the safety and well-being of our constituents.



GLEN HELEN REGIONAL PARK

The San Bernardino County Civil Grand Jury in 2018-2019 investigated and reviewed all parks in the county, including Glen Helen Regional Park and Facilities. The Grand Jury found lack of park maintenance and neglect has resulted in massive deficits of capital improvements and poses a risk of liability.

Nevertheless, the Glen Helen Park remains a place of weekend and summer usage of the lake, picnic areas, and general public use. As our county grows in population we must have open space that is conducive to raising our community's quality of life.

I am committed to enhancing the park with capital improvements in the following:

- **Refurbish/replace the restrooms facilities:** This will resolve issues with ADA compliance regulations, as well as needed plumbing upgrades.
- **Improved landscaping, roads, and maintenance:** Pave and slurry roads to avoid further deterioration. Aesthetic enhancements and weed abatement to both entrances located on Glen Helen Parkway. Although the second entrance is the park's main entrance, the first entrance is visible and should be upkept. General maintenance of landscaping throughout the park including shrubbery areas adjacent to lakes.
- **Irrigation improvements:** Necessary replacement and/or maintenance to the park's sprinkler systems.
- **Improve the summer swimming pool staffing process:** Enhance the hiring process during peak months to increase staff levels and accommodate park and attendee service needs.
- **Evaluate any existing third-party leasing and maintenance agreements for the park.**



DEVORE ANIMAL SHELTER

One of my first district tours was the Devore Animal Shelter. While the tour was informative it is no secret that our animal shelter in recent years has deteriorated and the underutilization of the shelter has been out-shined by the state-of-the-art facility in Riverside County. Many of our local cities have entered into direct service agreements with Riverside County which also has added to facility deficiencies and lack of resources needed for our animal shelter in San Bernardino County.

Therefore, I am recommending the following:

- **Feasibility study:** To determine the true cost and potential financing options to build an animal shelter that can restore trust and confidence in the services San Bernardino County offers.
- **Evaluate potential governing structure:** Evaluate a potential “joint powers authority” governing structure with potential stakeholders to better serve the County of San Bernardino and our local communities.



Funding Sources

- SB1 Highway roads tax
- Prop 68- Parks and Rec. facilities
- Measure I- Local county tax
- CDBG- Community Development Block Grants
- American Rescue Plan
- Pending Biden Infrastructure plan
- Governor's Budget
- Safe Routes to Schools
- General Fund Reserves (Contingencies etc.)
- Other State and Federal Infrastructure grants

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