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City Manager's Office

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Leslye Corsiglia

**SUBJECT:** JURISDICTION OF ORIGIN  
FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

**DATE:** February 14, 2014

Approved

Date

2/14/14

## INFORMATION

At the February 11, 2014 City Council meeting during the discussion of the award of funds to the San José Streets Team, Councilmember Herrera asked whether staff had good data about the number of homeless people who move to San José from other areas of the State and Country. This memorandum responds to that request.

All jurisdictions that receive federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing and services for homeless persons are required to conduct a homeless census at least every two years. On January 29 and 30, 2013, the biennial census and survey of the homeless population in San José was conducted by Applied Survey Research under contract with the City. A parallel census and survey of homeless persons throughout the rest of Santa Clara County was performed at the same time. These censuses provide a "point-in-time" snapshot of the homeless population on those dates.

During the 2013 Homeless Census, census workers counted 4,770 homeless individuals in San José, living in shelters and other inside spaces and living on the streets. An additional 2,861 homeless individuals were found in other parts of the County. In addition to the Census, the City undertakes a biannual survey of the homeless. The 2013 survey found that 85% of survey respondents reported having lived in Santa Clara County at the time they most recently became homeless, an increase from 77% from 2011. The report also revealed 71% were living in the City of San José at the time they lost their housing.

Of the total number of homeless counted, 1,230 homeless individuals were living in encampments, representing 26% of the total homeless population. Encampment residents were found to be much more likely to have been San José residents when they became homeless than the general homeless population (92% versus 71%). Finally, 96% of this population said that they want and would accept housing options if it was available, somewhat higher than the 93% of the general homeless population.

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The biennial census and survey of San José's homeless population continues to be a valuable tool for tracking trends to shape policy and program designs intended to appropriately prioritize and move these persons into permanent housing and to prevent at-risk individuals from becoming homeless. More information about the most recent homeless census can be found at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=1289>.

/s/

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Director of Housing

For questions, please contact Leslye Corsiglia, Director of Housing, at 408-535-3851.

