



For Immediate Release
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Town Hall Meeting on Homelessness in Malibu Scheduled for Jan. 17 at City Hall

(Malibu, CA) – The City of Malibu, the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness (MTFH) and The People Concern (formerly OPCC and LAMP Community) are holding a Town Hall Meeting on Homelessness in Malibu on Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 PM at Malibu City Hall.

The Town Hall meeting is open to the public and takes place in the Multi-purpose Room of City Hall, located at 23825 Stuart Ranch Road, Malibu. Map and directions: www.MalibuCity.org/CityHallMap.

All who live, work, or play in Malibu are encouraged to attend this first-of-its-kind meeting to learn about what the Town Hall's co-sponsors are doing to address the needs of the homeless population in our community, the current status of homelessness in Malibu, and what concerned community members can do help.

"This meeting will hopefully shed light rather than heat on an often misunderstood subject," said Malibu Mayor Lou LaMonte. "The people in Malibu care deeply about this issue, are eager to discuss and learn about it, and get involved."

Speakers will include Malibu City Councilmembers, as well as representatives from County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, The People Concern, MTFH, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The People Concern's Executive Director, John Maceri, and Associate Director, Dr. Christina Miller, will discuss the characteristics and needs of Malibu's homeless population and how they are applying their comprehensive, integrated system of care to address those needs in an effective and compassionate way.

“The People Concern is very pleased to be working with the dedicated leadership of the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness, as well as the City of Malibu and many committed residents, to help ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors are housed, healthy and safe,” Maceri said. “We look forward to discussing the issue of homelessness in Malibu, as well as having the opportunity to answer questions and discuss solutions at this important community forum.”

They will also report on progress made by their Malibu Homeless Outreach Team – two full-time professional outreach workers who have been engaging with Malibu’s homeless residents since the end of September with the goal of linking them to services and housing.

The role of law enforcement and other first responders and how community members can best respond when encountering homeless individuals will also be discussed.

Background:

Approximately 160 homeless people live in Malibu, according to the 2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). LAHSA reported that Malibu’s homeless population includes many individuals suffering from mental illness, physical disability, developmental disability, substance abuse, and chronic health problems. LAHSA’s count classified more than a third of Malibu’s homeless population as “chronically homeless.”

Recognizing that a new initiative – providing sustained, integrated, professional services – was needed to effectively address the long-term, complex needs of Malibu’s homeless residents, MTFH was started by a group of community volunteers in February, 2016. Since then, MTFH engaged The People Concern – a union of two trusted social service organizations (OPCC and Lamp Community). It is one of the largest non-profit organizations of its kind in Los Angeles County.

Grants from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the City of Malibu, along with major gifts from local residents, businesses, and congregations, made it possible to fund more than half of the cost of the Malibu Homeless Outreach Team and related services and housing for three years. The People Concern provides extensive integrated services such as medical care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, domestic violence services, access to interim and permanent housing, and more.

Any donations to The People Concern to support the Malibu Homeless Outreach Team received by February 28 will be matched up to a total of \$50,000. For more information on donating, visit www.MalibuTaskForce.org/giving.

To learn more about the Malibu Task Force on Homelessness, The People Concern and their efforts in the City of Malibu, please visit www.MalibuTaskForce.org or email MTFH co-chairs Jay Scott and Pamela Conley Ulich at info@MalibuTaskForce.org.
