

# Feedback

## Responder #1

**Conversation:** ~ 1 hour on [6-Page Version](#) ending with [1-Sentence Version](#) per following unsolicited edit by Responder #1:

**MOTION:** Request VNC Board support of the *Discussion Forum Committee's* commitment to generate and submit to the Board, for its review and approval, a set of recommendations capable of implementing the following **Strategy Objective**:

~~Develop and p~~Present to the board a set of policies and laws which would encourage private and public efforts to provide more less expensive 'homes' in existing LA residential communities in a way which would become, over time, within the economic reach of ownership by less wealthy residents — 'homes' where they and their families would feel they 'belong' to a 'community' without the fears common in 'ghettos' — an approach designed to create & then maintain a systemic housing supply/demand balance in all of LA's residential communities.

The above **Strategy Objective** addresses the below **Diversity Vision Goal**:

**Consider strategies** that encourage & facilitate realistic recommendations designed to increase economic diversity, including [affordable **less expensive\***] housing, etc.

[\* Clarification inserted November 24, 2014 by Joe Murphy]

And it also addresses the broader **intent** of the **VNC Vision Goals**:

... to promote a more proactive, collaborative vision for VNC Committees to include in their deliberations as they formulate recommendations for Board consideration, the **intent** [being] to create a working framework of integrated strategies capable of achieving, over time, broader consensus and increased ... [**Focus on Children, Participation, Walkability, Diversity, Creativity, Collaboration, Brainstorming**]

Responder#1 focus was on the **blue print** portion of the motion which he edited down to:

Present to the board a set of policies designed to create & then maintain a systemic housing supply in all of LA's residential communities.

# Feedback

## Responder #2

**Email Exchange:** starting with [6-Page Version](#) used in above conversation with **Responder #1**.

**Comment:** Having a tough time getting through this and sorting out what you're trying to do. The multicolored text isn't helping. Can you break this down into one paragraph?

**Response:** [2-Page Version](#).

**Comment:** I'm still having a hard time understanding what it is you're trying to do with this. Can you break it down to one paragraph for me?

**Response:** [2-Paragraph Version](#):

**Stubborn Facts** The facts on the ground for a typical California family are as bad as they've ever been in the state's history. Housing production over the last decade fell more than 100,000 new homes short of demand and continues to lag, leading to surging prices at all income levels. The state's median home value of \$485,800 is more than two and a half times the national average. One-third of the state's renters spend more than half their income on housing costs. The state's homeownership rates are at their lowest since the 1940s. More than two-thirds of coastal communities in the state have adopted growth-limiting measures such as caps on population or height limits on buildings, which are aimed at restricting residential development. A 2006 study of California land-use rules by UC Berkeley researchers found that each growth restriction a city adopted increased home prices between 3% & 4.5%. Blacks are 39% of the county's homeless people but only 8% of the county's population.

**DFC Proposal** The DFC proposal offers to explore long-term options to address this long-term systemic problem. It is intended to generate a set of policies and laws capable of encouraging private and public efforts to construct the less-expensive homes needed to create & maintain a housing supply/demand balance in residential communities. It requires research into prior efforts as well as consideration of alternatives from many sources in order to provide the board with a thoughtful and realistic action recommendation. It is assumed that this would have an indirect impact on the ongoing shelter and social needs of homeless people and the current need for short-term responses.

**Comment:** I'm still not getting this. What is your ultimate goal?

**Response:** To find and recommend a long-term solution to homelessness to the extent possible within the human system in which we live our lives. I don't know what else to say. Are you willing to meet and talk about this? I'd like that very much.

**Comment:** I'd love to meet and discuss but it's so vague. You need to flesh this out some more before we do. We need specific solutions to the problems you so thoughtfully listed. ...

**Response:** Ok. In the meantime, I'll ponder the feedback I've been receiving from those I've been talking with and see if I can come up with something. ...

## Responder #3

**Conversation:** ~ 1 hour on [2-Page Version](#)

**Comment:** (upon later email receipt of [2-Paragraph Version](#))  
Shorter is better but you now need a call to action. What do I do? When? Why?

**Response:** (later email of [Suggested Solutions](#) sent to **Responder #4** below) I compiled the below in response to similar feedback I received this morning from someone who I also asked for advice. Is this ([Suggested Solutions](#)) what you mean by 'a call to action'? More advice would be much appreciated, if you have the time.

**Comment:** Yes that was what I meant. How can I as a reader DO something?

# Feedback

## Responder #4

**Conversation:** ~ 1 hour on [2-Page Version](#) and also [2-Paragraph Version](#) ending with encouragement of effort and offer of possible 'design expertise help' - considered added section on 'solutions' which he thought would help - I emailed him two [Suggested Solutions](#) (below).

### Email:

A possible third caption might be called [Suggested Solutions](#). Two come to mind, but there are many more that I've read about that should be considered in any effort to come up with a viable 'long-term' solution to homelessness. These two seem to focus more on short-term than on long-term solutions, but maybe that's where any discussions need to start:

- There are a number ways to combat homelessness that would cost the city very little--some methods could even become self-sustaining by offering work opportunities to the homeless, along with INSTANT housing...see below:

1. Utilize the empty hospitals that exist in Los Angeles county --approx. ten of them...the homeless can help rehab/retro fit them into shared housing and also activate the kitchen/dining rooms. Hospitals are ideal in that they already have private and shared rooms, office space, kitchen, and dining area. Often all that is needed is cleaning, paint and some updating. Supplemental fresh food can be grown on the roof-tops.

2. Create more boarding houses for chronically homeless --hire a "host/manager" to make sure rules are followed. The city can rent large homes, divide bedrooms to maximize the number of beds available offered, and then charge rent on a sliding scale (NO RENTAL SUBSIDIES NEEDED!) The newly housed, formerly homeless can take turns working in the kitchen and garden--and raise some of their food hydroponically. Raising food is also very therapeutic. Services can also be offered like pet sitting.

3. Instead of building expensive INDIVIDUAL apartments for the homeless (FOOLISH!), build DORMITORIES, like colleges do for their students, with individual or shared rooms, and common lounging and kitchen areas. It is foolish to offer individual apartments to those who often CANNOT live on their own because of mental problems or other issues. Dormitories and/or shared housing makes it easier to insure that special needs can be met in a VERY cost effective manner.

4. IMMEDIATELY set up CAMPGROUND on city or county land for homeless people that have restrooms, showers, and a community room. This is a very cost effective way to address the problem of homeless people who do not want to give up their pets...also this method costs very little money, and could be set up within a month's time. This method is a no-brainer to get homeless off the street within a very short time frame. The homeless could be charged on a sliding scale to pay for upkeep, security.

5. IN ADDITION: The City of L.A. needs to allocate a MINIMUM of one-tenth of one percent of HHH money (\$1.2 million) to have Regina Well, Senior Crisis Chaplain and Executive Director at Homeless Task Force (Venice, California) expand this program here in Venice.

- Another is the 'homeless-managed' tent city experience from Ballard in Seattle that I personally visited.

Both seem to assume rather narrow zoning changes which would not engender the longer-term impact I'm looking for - an impact which would create and maintain a housing supply/demand balance as the population grows.