



PROCLAMATION

Of the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado in Recognition of the Sheriff's Office Homeless Outreach Team

For their Steadfast Determination to Helping Those in Need

WHEREAS, The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Homeless Outreach Team was developed in May, 2017. It is staffed with one Sergeant, two Deputies. The development of this newly formed team was a result of the growing homeless population within the County. Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT) are quickly becoming a "best practice" in regions across California who are experiencing a high volume of homelessness.

WHEREAS, Prior to the formation of HOT, it had been estimated that nearly 600 people were experiencing homelessness within the county. The Sheriff's Office was responding to no less than 700 calls for service each quarter related to homeless and/or transient activities. Additionally, during the summer of 2016, the county experienced roughly 100 wildland fires started in or about homeless encampments.

WHEREAS, In review of this information, the decision was made that a specialized unit should be created to address the issues associated with our transient population. During the formation of the unit, much research was performed both internally and out of County to include visiting other agencies with similar teams to determine what the best course of action would be for our community.

WHEREAS, The Unit works directly in the field with the homeless population on a daily basis, assisting them in getting to their appointments, ensuring that they fill out proper paperwork, maintaining constant contact and follow through, and connecting them with essentials like food, programs, and counseling. These efforts ensure that a sometimes underserved and forgotten part of the community are given every opportunity to recover and rebuild their life.

WHEREAS, The goal of HOT is to find a lasting solution to permanently end an individual's cycle of homelessness. In doing so, it continues to see a reduction of devastating wildland fires, reduce calls for service related to transient activities (trespassing, public intoxications, defecating in public, visual blight, petty thefts, aggressive panhandling and the violent crimes within the camps), and improve the quality of life for the entire population of our County. HOT has also focused on the community for a more coordinated response to the homeless population. They work daily with nonprofits and other County entities. Through HOT's leadership, these groups are now working together and combating the problem in an organized fashion.

WHEREAS, The HOT Unit has truly taken a comprehensive approach to homelessness; understanding that this cannot be ended overnight and that not everyone wants to be helped. They are working to perfect the proper balance of support and enforcement to those who are unwilling, or are unable to help themselves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado recognizes the El Dorado Sheriff's Office Homeless Outreach Team for their caring and steadfast efforts in helping those in need.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 26th day of July 2022.

Attest:

Kim Dawson, Clerk of the Board

Lori Parlin
Chair, Board of Supervisors