



## Press Release

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*We Are the Community – Leading the Way in Law Enforcement*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

**Subject : Redondo Beach Police Department Joins Forces with PATH to End Homelessness**

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To address the increase of homeless individuals in Redondo Beach, the Redondo Beach Police Department is partnering with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) to help those living on the streets find permanent homes. Now, a trained PATH Navigator, focused on providing street outreach and case management services to those living on the street, will be based out of the Redondo Beach Police Department for eight hours every week, and will ride along with officers in order to identify, engage, and provide intensive case management to the city's most vulnerable homeless individuals.

As part of the year-long contract, PATH will provide three key services: homeless outreach in partnership with Redondo Police Department, community engagement and mobilization, and localized efforts to further educate and engage the community, as well as the media, around homelessness.

As explained by Redondo Beach Police Chief Keith Kauffman, “We strive to implement long-term solutions to ensure the safety of our community and the well-being of every person in our city – homeless or not. By partnering with PATH we now have professionals who work with a population that needs special attention, allowing us to focus on other community emergencies. This collaboration between PATH and the RBPD will help bring the entire community together to look for long-term solutions to a societal problem that we are not going to be able to ‘police’ ourselves out of.”

“PATH is thrilled to partner with the Redondo Beach Police Department. We believe that this innovative partnership will be an important step in getting our homeless neighbors off the streets and into permanent homes of their own,” notes Meredith Berkson, Director of Programs, South County and Coordinated Entry at PATH.

PATH practices the Housing First model - meaning that people experiencing homelessness are moved into their own home as quickly as possible, while they continue to receive supportive services. This often helps people overcome their personal challenges much faster than if they stayed on the street while receiving case management.

In regards to the cost of providing housing versus letting people live on the streets with no outreach and no services, the numbers speak to the importance of Housing First. According to research done by PATH, the average cost of someone living on the streets in Los Angeles can be upwards of \$63,000 a year, paid by taxes. These costs incurred include emergency services, hospital visits, jail and corrective services, general public assistance, mental health and substance abuse costs. But when people are offered guidance on how to move into their own apartment, have access to mental and physical health care, substance abuse recovery, and independent skills training, the cost is about \$16,900 per person. PATH maintains that permanent housing is a proven best practice and a cost-effective solution.

By partnering with PATH, the plan is to reach out to people experiencing homelessness, link them to necessary services through case management, and ultimately move ten people into permanent housing within the contract year.

A similar PATH program started in 2012 in the Gateway Cities, which include Paramount, Lynwood, Compton, Avalon, and Long Beach, has proven successful. Since October 2012, PATH has connected 5,469 people to mental health, primary care, or substance abuse services. 2,141 people increased their income with the help of services, and 1,143 individuals have moved into permanent homes in those areas. 113 of those people who found homes are Veterans.

Redondo Beach Police Department and PATH will present more information to the community in the coming months. Residents of Redondo Beach are encouraged to attend to learn about homelessness, what PATH is doing, and hear how community members can participate in helping our homeless neighbors *Make It Home*.

**About PATH:**

PATH is ending homelessness for individuals, families, and communities. This is accomplished by building housing and providing supportive services throughout California. In just the last three years PATH has helped over 5,600 people move into permanent housing! Our ambitious new goal is to help 10,000 people Make It Home by 2020. [www.epath.org](http://www.epath.org)

This press release was prepared by Sgt. Shawn Freeman (RBPD) & Jackie Vorhauer (PATH)