

April 14, 2016

Mark Lovelace, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors
County of Humboldt
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Urgent call to action!

Dear Supervisor Lovelace and Members of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors,

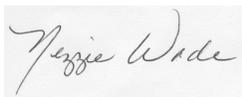
The HRC is charged with promoting tolerance and mutual respect between all persons, and promoting positive human relationships for the purpose of ensuring public peace, health, safety and the general welfare.

The Commission believes that the situation concerning the planned displacement of homeless people in Eureka is a human rights issue. The Commission recognizes that its responsibility is to make recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors regarding all human rights issues. However, the Commission advises that the Board fulfill the following requests **immediately**. The Commission urges you to:

- Declare an emergency Shelter Crisis;
- Collaborate with the City of Eureka to resolve this crisis;
- Stop the expulsion of people from the Palco Marsh, which puts them and others into a more dangerous and disruptive situation. Invoke a higher authority if necessary;
- Designate areas in the county for homeless/houseless people to live in a legal, safe and healthy place until such time as the Homeless Strategy and Implementation Plan is fully implemented and permanent housing is available;
- Encourage the city to designate long-term legal, safe living places to be available for homeless/houseless people until such time as the Homeless Strategy and Implementation Plan is fully implemented and permanent housing is available;
- Encourage the respectful treatment and decriminalization of all homeless/houseless people in Humboldt County.

Those living in the Marsh are experiencing an inability to obtain shelter and their health and safety is threatened. The majority of them have disabilities. Many have dual disabilities. The Commission continues to urge the Board of Supervisors to take action immediately and follow through with all items the Commission has recommended above. It is time to take action and to stop ignoring the Commission's recommendations regarding a Shelter Crisis and to move forward with community partners on affordable, safe, legal alternatives, such as sanctuary camps, safe parking programs and more for the large numbers of homeless in Humboldt. The lack of leadership on issues of homelessness and housing now has resulted in great harm to those most in need among your constituents.

Sincerely,



Nezzie Wade, HRC Chairperson

On Behalf of the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission

Cc: Clerk of the Board; Humboldt County Administration; Cities in Humboldt County; media (print, air and social).

Support Document providing background on HRC-BOS Shelter Crisis issue can be found on the HRC website at <http://humboldt.gov/1308/Human-Rights-Commission> under **Support Document-Open Letter to BOS on Shelter Crisis, April 2016**.