



Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

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April 5, 2006

To: The Honorable Mayors Kevin Foy and Mark Chilton and the Honorable Barry Jacobs, Chair of the Orange County Commissioners:

Re: Petition from the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

Dear Representatives:

Pursuant to our discussion with you at the 30 March, 2006 Assembly of Governments, the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) respectfully requests that each of the three units of government appoint one elected official and one staff member to participate in each of two work groups to be convened by the IFC:

1. Men's Residential Facility Work Group, committed to securing a site and funding for a comprehensive men's residential facility;
2. Comprehensive Service Center Work Group to identify the appropriate facility/site (renovated Carrboro Douglas Building or other site) to house IFC Food Pantry/Kitchen, Crisis Intervention/Case Management, and Administrative Offices

As noted in our discussion at the Assembly of Governments, the Board of Directors of the IFC has already created several internal work groups to focus on specific issues related to building this organization's capacity to move forward successfully with our service/program vision.

However, we have concluded that IFC cannot *alone* realize its goal of providing adequate services to the homeless. The *active* involvement of local units of government is necessary to resolve the many complex issues related to securing a site, addressing neighbor concerns and obtaining the resources necessary to achieve and sustain our vision.

Thus, we request that each local unit of government be prepared to participate in the work of these groups until such time as the two facilities are completed. In addition, as suggested by Councilman Ward, we ask that representatives of the local units of government come to the table with creative ideas, resources, funds and in-kind support.

We have been most appreciative of the extensive support that all three units of local government have offered to IFC over the years. It is time now to move to a new stage of *action* and to find community-wide consensus about solutions to the challenge of properly serving a homeless population that we all know is expanding both in numbers and in complexity of service needs.

Respectfully submitted

Susan J. Anderson, President
IFC Board of Directors

Giving help and hope to those in need

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