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2019-2020 SAN JOAQUIN GRAND JURY RELEASES REPORT ON HOMELESSNESS IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

On August 17, 2020, the San Joaquin County 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury released its [report](#) investigating homelessness in San Joaquin County. The Civil Grand Jury's duty is to address citizens' concerns regarding the operation of local government entities.

In its investigation, the Grand Jury focused on how San Joaquin County and the cities of Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, Lathrop, Ripon, and Escalon have addressed homelessness. The investigation included evaluating current homelessness policies and initiatives adopted by the County and the cities and whether policies are being successfully implemented. The Grand Jury also evaluated communication collaboration between the County and the cities in their efforts to address homelessness.

The Grand Jury determined that Health Care Services, Community Development, Sheriff's Office, and District Attorney's Office for San Joaquin County are successfully implementing the County's *Quality of Life* policy. In the last two years, Stockton has been abiding by its principles. Tracy and Manteca have homeless task forces but have not joined with the combined efforts of San Joaquin County, Stockton, and Lodi in supporting the County position of Program Administrator for Homeless Initiatives to provide local leadership for the region.

The Grand Jury noted that even though San Joaquin County has made efforts to address homelessness more remains to be done. Among the Grand Jury recommendations are an easy-to-read website which would lead to a more-informed public on this topic of interest. Additional recommendations include:

- Petitioning the court to extend Homeless Court;
- Sheriff add four more deputies to the Community Car Program; and
- Cities of Tracy, Manteca, Lathrop, Ripon, and Escalon adopt the Program Administrator for Homeless Initiatives as the homeless coordinator for San Joaquin County.

The public is encouraged to read the complete report by visiting the [Grand Jury's website](#).

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