

CITY OF BUENA PARK
NAVIGATION CENTER OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
April 15, 2026

1. GENERAL

- a. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair McCann called the Navigation Center Oversight Commission Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, California.

b. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Innocente, Massed, McAuley, McCann, Morrison, Ross, Roth, Valiulla

Absent: Jessup

Also Present: Jim Box, Director of Community Services

Ariana Chavez, Senior Administrative Assistant

Rosemary Nielsen, Homeless Outreach Supervisor

Analisa Marquez, Homeless Outreach Coordinator

Maddie Villapando, Community Services Supervisor

Saul Contreras, Senior Office Assistant

Timothy Huynh, Chief Program Officer Mercy House

Officer Rodriguez, Homeless Liaison Officer

Officer Beltran, Homeless Liaison Officer

- c. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Commissioner Roth

2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** Amy, Navigation Center resident, addressed the Commission on her experience inside the shelter, pet issues, limitation on bedding, and described other issues that cause her stress. Holly, Navigation Center resident, addressed the Commission regarding the lack of communication from Mercy House during the heat treatment for infestation, issue with the refrigerators, and the temperature inside the dorms. Ginger Cruz, Buena Park resident, addressed the Commission on the homeless issue in the City and offered her assistance.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 21, 2026 & Buena Park Navigation Center Tour**
***M/S/P – Vice Chair Ross motioned to approve the minutes from January 21, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Innocente seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Commissioner Massed motioned to approve the Buena Park Navigation Center Tour minutes. Commissioner Innocente seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

4. DIRECTOR AND CITY STAFF REPORTS:

- a. **City - News and Recent Happenings**
Jim Box, Director of Community Services, invited the Commission to the visioning session for the Arts and Master Plan and to the Love Buena Park event.
- b. **Navigation Center/Mercy House - Recent Happenings**
Timothy Huynh, Chief Program Officer for Mercy House, informed the Commission on the closure of the Navigation Center resulting in a pause in accepting new clients into the shelter and reported to the Commission on the success of the heat treatment. Timothy Huynh, Chief Program Officer, updated the Commission on the temperature inside the men's and women's dorms in the shelter and the policy regarding the storage of client's belongings inside the shelter. Timothy Huynh, Chief Program

Officer, provided the timeframe when bed bugs were discovered in the men's dorm. Timothy Huynh, Chief Program Officer, informed the Commission on Mercy House's protocol and best practices when it comes to infestations and keeping up with their cleanliness standard. Timothy Huynh, Chief Program Officer, informed the Commission on Mercy House's communication with residents during the heat treatment. Flordeliss Payes, Mercy House Program Manager, informed the Commission on success stories from the Navigation Center involving clients moving out of the shelter and into their own residency and updated the Commission on staffing numbers at the Navigation Center. Flordeliss Payes, Mercy House Program Manager, informed the Commission on the programs and events offered to residents at the shelter.

c. Homeless Outreach/Public Safety Update

Analisa Marquez, Homeless Outreach Coordinator, provided statistics from January to March regarding the services and number of individuals the Buena Park Homeless Outreach team assisted during that time period. Analisa Marquez, Homeless Outreach Coordinator, updated the Commission on the waitlist for housing, motel vouchers distributed, reconnections with family, and on the Point-In Time Count. Analisa Marquez, Homeless Outreach Coordinator, informed the Commission on the Homeless Outreach team's collaboration with Homeless Liaison Officers on visiting homeless individual hotspots. Analisa Marquez, Homeless Outreach Coordinator, informed the Commission on staff development and training. Officer Beltran, informed the Commission on the Point-In Time Count, visiting the railroad tracks where encampments are common, collaborating with Union Pacific for encampment clean ups, and reasons why individuals experiencing homelessness refuse to receive assistance into a shelter. Officer Rodriguez informed the Commission on the grants they received for their team along with the process on cleaning up homeless encampments near the railroad tracks. Maddie Villapando, Community Services Supervisor, informed the Commission on Medical enrollments and on AB130 a law that requires cities and operators to report to the state on the conditions of the shelter.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

a. Update on the Status of the Action Items and Strategic Goals for the Ad-Hoc Committee Addressing Homelessness

Rosemary Nielsen, Homeless Outreach Supervisor, updated the Commission on the work staff has been tasked to do at the request from the ad hoc committee and on the collaboration with the Hope Center to address homelessness. Rosemary Nielsen, Homeless Outreach Supervisor, informed the Commission on receiving additional data from the Point-In Time Count and on working with local faith-based groups.

b. Update Regarding Commission and Guests Tour of the Buena Park Navigation Center
Chair McCann informed the Commission on the Buena Park Navigation Center tour that occurred on March 5th and provided an update on the tour of the shelter guided by Mercy House staff.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Navigation Center Monthly Report – January 2026 – March 2026
Vice Chair Ross commented on the negative exits at Mercy House. Timothy Huynh, Chief Program Officer, highlighted the positive exits to the Commission and informed the Commission on the issues on tracking unknown exits from the shelter.

7. COMMISSION COMMENTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, ATENDANCE

- a. Commissioner Roth commented on the resources and support programs offered to residents at the Navigation Center after they leave the shelter and if there can be an update or presentation on the topic. Commissioner McAuley commented on the challenges the Navigation Center faces and to keep the shelter's goals in focus. Commissioner Innocente commented on the funding and being updated on the matter. Vice Chair Ross commented on getting more information regarding behavior exits and how the Navigation Center is funded in order to analyze risk. Commissioner Valiulla commented on having a discussion for a staff and management training for emergency situations and creating a sub-committee that could focus on budgetary issues for the residents at the shelter. Commissioner Massed commented on the mental health issue and drug use from the homeless population and asked on the services that assist individuals experiencing those problems. Commissioner Morrison commented collaboration between the City and local schools in assisting to address students and families experiencing homelessness and informed the Commission and staff on the food pantry provided at the Buena Park Middle School and Whitaker Elementary. Chair McCann commented on the sub-committees and asked if Commissioners are interested in joining to reach out to Vice Chair Ross. Chair McCann commented on the annual audit of the Navigation Center for 2026 and on the monthly Navigation Center Zoom meetings.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Next City Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
b. Next Regular Commission Meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair McCann declared the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

ATTEST:


Ariana Chavez, Senior Administrative Assistant


Chair, Carol McCann