



MARILYN K. KIRKPATRICK  
Madam Chair

*Board of County Commissioners*

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Dear Attendees,

I'm writing on behalf of the Clark County Commission to express that Clark County is in full support of: The 2019 Southern Nevada Youth Homelessness Summit.

The number of homeless youth in Southern Nevada has reached crisis levels. On any given night in Clark County, approximately 1,184 unaccompanied youth, including 304 unaccompanied children under 18, are homeless. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in 2016 Clark County had the third highest number of unaccompanied homeless children and youth of all major metropolitan areas in the country. Nevada was leading the nation in the highest rate of unaccompanied homeless youth living unsheltered on the street. Those are appalling numbers and facts.

Youth Homelessness is devastating for individuals, families, and the entire Southern Nevada community. There are numerous consequences of youth homelessness. More than one third of the homeless youth engage in survival sex, homeless youth are 18 times more likely to use crack cocaine than non-homeless youth and are more than seven (7) times likely to die from AIDS. These are short-term and long-term consequences we cannot ignore. Homeless youth are a part of the Southern Nevada community, and they deserve our attention.

Clark County supports this event as well as the implementation of the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness. The commitment from all organizations involved to end youth homelessness in our community is truly commendable. There's an urgency to end youth homelessness, and I hope that the Southern Nevada community recognizes that urgency. Together, we can end youth homelessness.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Kirkpatrick  
Chair  
Clark County Commission