



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of San Clemente Responds to Lawsuit from the City of Santa Ana

January 16, 2019...San Clemente, California...Today, January 15, 2020, The City of San Clemente was served with a lawsuit by the City of Santa Ana. Some of the claims as it relates to the City of San Clemente allege the City implemented a plan that involved transporting homeless persons from San Clemente to the Armory Shelter located in Santa Ana. The City of San Clemente unequivocally refutes all claims and allegations included in the lawsuit as they are made without any legal or factual support – the City of San Clemente has never transported, or arranged for the transportation of anyone who is experiencing homelessness in the City to the Armory in Santa Ana.

“This lawsuit lacks any legal foundation and has no merit,” said Mayor Dan Bane. “We have not transported anyone to the Armory in Santa Ana.” Bane continued, “The City of San Clemente is confident that the lawsuit will be dismissed.”

The City of San Clemente has been committed to helping people experiencing homelessness in the City for many years. The City has had a long-standing relationship with the Family Assistance Ministries (FAM), a San Clemente based non-profit organization assisting

those in need in Orange County with resources for food, shelter, and personalized supportive counseling and aid, helping bridge the gap from dependency to self-sufficiency. Additionally, the City has contracted in the past with Mercy House, and currently contracts with CityNet, to provide mobile outreach services. These organizations have worked to assess the needs of the homeless population

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and connect them to services that will help them reach stability and independence. Furthermore, the City of San Clemente established and operated a designated camping area providing a safe place with restrooms and storage for the City's homeless population. The City is committed to working collaboratively with our non-profit partners, Orange County Sherriff's Department, our neighboring cities, and with the OC Health Care Agency to cooperatively come up with solutions and work towards delivering resources that will help get people experiencing homelessness off the streets.

The City of San Clemente is aware that the County of Orange operates a Cold Weather Armory Emergency Shelter program. In fact, the program has existed since 1987 when then California Governor Deukmejian, by executive order, authorized the California National Guard to make the State's armories available for temporary emergency shelters. In 1994, the program was codified into State law. Currently, the County provides up to 200 beds for individuals during the cold weather season. The Armories are a critical resource in the County's System of Care, and are paid for with a majority of County General Fund dollars. As such, people experiencing homelessness, regardless of where they reside in the County, should be able to seek refuge from the cold weather and take advantage of the Armories. Although the Armories have been made available by the County, the City of San Clemente has never transported any person to the Armories.

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