

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-1379**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL, CALIFORNIA,  
SUPPORTING ORANGE COUNTY'S EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE  
THE THREAT OF FENTANYL IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the increasing prevalence of fentanyl poses a significant public health and safety risk to Orange County communities; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide drug-related deaths exceeded 100,000 between April 2020 and April 2021. Fentanyl is a significant contributing factor to this alarming statistic; and

**WHEREAS**, Orange County fentanyl-related deaths have increased 1100% from 37 in 2016 to 432 in 2020. In that same period statewide fentanyl-related deaths increased over 1600% from 239 to 3,857; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these deaths are the result of drug dealers selling counterfeit pills containing illicit fentanyl. The person consuming is unaware of the fentanyl presence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Sheriff's Department continues efforts to interdict and seize illicit narcotics. From 2017-2020 Sherriff's narcotics teams seized 388 pounds of fentanyl. These seizures potentially contained 88 million lethal doses and had a tootle street value of \$43 million. Each dose taken off the street represents a potential life saved; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Sheriff's Department and municipal police agencies have begun issuing advisements to all those arrested for selling narcotics. The advisement states that if a dealer sells, furnishes, or distributes drugs to someone, and that person dies as a result of using the drugs, they can be charged with murder. Similarly, the Orange County District Attorney's Office adopted a policy to advise offenders convicted of certain drug-related charges that if they commit a drug-related crime again and someone dies as a result they can be charged with murder; and

**WHEREAS**, the Drug Enforcement Administration has launched a public campaign, "One Pill Can Kill," to raise awareness that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially deadly. This message is also reiterated in the Orange County Sheriff's Department's "Above the Influence" school education program; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laguna Niguel holds public safety as the City top priority as outlined in the City's adopted Strategic Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laguna Niguel’s legislative platform includes the guiding principle of “Maintaining Public Safety.” Recognizing the impacts of the opioid epidemic, the City incorporated drug abuse in the City’s adopted legislative platform to support efforts to fight back against the opioid crisis and its effects on individuals, families, and communities; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Laguna Niguel joins with Orange County law enforcement and the Board of Supervisors in committing to eliminate the threat of fentanyl to our community. The City of Laguna Niguel commits to devoting resources to the interdiction of narcotics, holding accountable drug traffickers, and raising awareness about the dangers of drug use.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.