



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Council Votes Unanimously to Initiate Litigation Against the County of Orange for Approving “Tent City” for the Homeless

Board of Supervisors attempts a “Homeless Shuffle” by blindsiding the City with a surprise approval of a homeless encampment in Laguna Niguel

Laguna Niguel, CA – On Tuesday, March 20, 2018, the Laguna Niguel City Council voted unanimously to initiate litigation against the County of Orange, just 24 hours after the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted to create a homeless encampment in downtown Laguna Niguel just a few steps from a public library, daycare center and elementary school.

“I am stunned that anyone at the County thought it was a good idea to place 100 homeless individuals in tents that are adjacent to not only a residential neighborhood of young families, but also a daycare center where innocent children play and just a few hundred yards from an elementary school,” said Elaine Gennaway, Mayor of Laguna Niguel. “This is a public safety tragedy waiting to happen and we will do everything in our power to prevent this from occurring. “The safety of our residents and their children demand that our City Council take swift and decisive action, which is what we have done.”

The City Council opened their regular City Council meeting by individually expressing their outrage and dismay for the County’s proposal and each pledged to take whatever action necessary to prevent any negative impact on the quality of life for residents. Following their comments, the City Council heard public testimony from more than 50 speakers, who shared a myriad of concerns with the County’s proposal and spoke in support of the City resisting the County’s efforts to move the homeless encampment from the riverbed in Anaheim to a residential neighborhood in Laguna Niguel. Over 500 individuals attended the meeting and indicated their support of each of the speakers.

After spending 10 years claiming to work on a solution for homelessness, the County conducted a hasty and haphazard shifting of homeless encampments from the Santa Ana Riverbed into motels throughout the County. With the clock running out, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to place the hundreds of homeless currently living in motels into temporary tented shelters on County property in Huntington Beach, Irvine and Laguna Niguel.

All three cities have initiated litigation against the County to prevent this aggressive action that would put to risk the quality of life, businesses and public safety of the residents that the County purports to represent.

“This “Homeless Shuffle” the County is trying to perpetrate on Laguna Niguel may be the greatest threat to our quality of life since the Board of Supervisors unsuccessfully tried to build an LAX-sized international airport in South Orange County 20 years ago,” said Gennaway. “We defended our residents successfully against the Board of Supervisors then and we will do the same again now.” To that end, the City voted unanimously to initiate litigation against the County of Orange.

To view the [Laguna Niguel City Council meeting](#), click [here](#) or to [view the recording](#) of the Facebook Live feed, please visit our [City’s Facebook page](#).

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