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April 9, 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you for expressing your concerns regarding comments recently published and posted on various social media sites about using the parking lot of the Federal Building (the Ziggurat) for homeless purposes. It is important to note that Laguna Niguel is not the subject of current lawsuits in Orange County over homeless issues. To be clear, the City is unaware of any plans to construct anything at that location and is diligently monitoring the situation. If any such ideas were ever proposed, you can be certain that I would be all over the issue and that our residents would be looped into everything. The property is currently owned by the Federal Government and is being used by a number of government agencies at this time. Your City representatives have been speaking with our Federal elected representatives regarding this site and Judge Carter's comments. Here is a link for the contact information for both your state and federal elected representatives:

<https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/299/Legislative-Representatives>.

As your Mayor, I attended Judge Carter's recent hearing along with our City Manager. Your representatives have been present in his courtroom for all discussions for which the City has been invited. As such, I and the City Council are very aware of Judge Carter's remarks where he expressed his frustration with the County of Orange and the lack of necessary facilities to address homeless people suffering from severe mental illness. Over the past several months, your City Council has been kept informed of the ongoing litigation relative to homelessness.

Your City Council recognizes that homelessness is an extremely complex societal issue that must be dealt with humanely and with dignity to all involved. For those reasons, we have been working closely with the County of Orange and many local faith-based and non-profit organizations for several years to provide outreach and exceptional homeless prevention services within Laguna Niguel. Laguna Niguel gets it right on this issue and has undertaken substantial efforts to take care of homeless persons within our City while giving great deference to the rights of our residents.

We are currently waiting for the most recent point-in-time count results to be released from the County so what we can confirm exactly how many homeless persons are within our community. Those counts are expected any day. We understand the number to be extremely low and well within our ability to continue providing exceptional service to all involved.

Sincerely,

John Mark Jennings
Mayor, City of Laguna Niguel