



Dane M. White, Mayor
201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025
Phone: 760-839-4631
E-mail: dawhite@escondido.org

February 6, 2024

To: San Diego County Board of Supervisors

Just last week we were made aware of plans to place a temporary homeless shelter in Escondido located at 620 E. Valley Parkway. This proposal was made without consideration of local Escondido leaders, and without consideration of the impacts of the surrounding areas. Previously, the County of San Diego approached the Escondido City Council to propose senior affordable housing at the same site which was met with the complete support of the Escondido City Council. While we still support the much needed affordable housing for seniors, we oppose any attempt to place a temporary shelter at this location.

In February of 2023, the Escondido City Council created a subcommittee dedicated to finding solutions for the homeless population in Escondido. With one of the largest concentrations of homeless in this city, we have been working tirelessly creating a plan to address this. During the last year, the subcommittee has drafted several new policies for the City Council to consider, as well as visited several different homeless shelters, safe parking lots and camping sites to see what is working and not working in other cities. These tours have gone as far as the City of Huntington Beach. We believe we have found a model that will work for us and are currently working on partnerships with local service and healthcare providers to bring this to fruition at a more appropriate site. The site of your proposal is in the heart of our central business district where small business owners are already struggling keeping their stores clean and safe. We receive concerns daily about the safety of both business owners and their customers in this district. Placing a shelter at this location will only exacerbate this problem, especially without a clear exit plan. Where will these individuals go when construction begins on the affordable housing? Will they be left to wander aimlessly through our downtown and the city? In addition to location, priority is another major area of concern. With one of the largest concentrations of homeless in the City of Escondido will those who are already here now be given priority? It would seem imprudent and counterproductive to bring individuals from another city into a city that is struggling to address the current situation.

Despite your attempt to circumvent local city officials, we stand ready to partner with you. The City of Escondido has a surplus of property better suited for a shelter and services. Instead of a temporary shelter at 620 E. Valley Parkway, why not work with us on a more permanent solution at a different location? Placing a permanent shelter on city property that we will manage and maintain would be a more efficient, long-term plan that would serve both the City of Escondido and the homeless population already in this city. We would welcome you in joining the work that the subcommittee is already doing.

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
February 6, 2024
Page 2


Again, we are not opposed to having a shelter in this city. Location, priority, and long-term planning can all be addressed more effectively by working together. Please consider working with us and not against us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dane M. White
Mayor



Christian Garcia
Deputy Mayor