

SUBJECT: Father Joe's Villages Believes Housing as Human Right Resolution is a Good First Step

The San Diego City Council will vote on Oct. 31 on a resolution to declare housing a human right. The resolution will serve as a guiding principle for the City as it considers policies that address the root cause of homelessness.

Additionally, the City is also planning to hold an informational workshop in which the public, members of the council and others will be able to submit suggestions on a future Tenant Protection Ordinance to strengthen the rights of renters.

Please consider the following statement from Deacon Jim Vargas, president and CEO at Father Joe's Villages:

"At Father Joe's Villages, we know that access to housing is a key part of preventing and ending homelessness. We support the San Diego City Council's planned resolution to declare housing a human right, and we also want to see the City pair this declaration with a commitment of the funds necessary to ensure housing is accessible by all San Diegans.

With housing being one of the most fundamental social determinants of health, creating policies that will increase access to affordable housing will help ensure the well-being of our neighbors and our communities. Going forward, we urge the San Diego City Council to create a plan with tangible steps and funding sources to ensure that this resolution is not just a guiding principle, but a plan of action.

Tenant protections are one such potential step, since keeping people housed can prevent them from falling into homelessness. However, the City must offer relief for both tenants and property owners if it aims to address the housing crisis in a holistic way.

Together, we can solve the crisis of homelessness, but we must enact meaningful policies, foster collaboration between organizations, city officials and the public, and ensure that the housing needs of San Diegans are met. Father Joe's Villages will stand with the City Council in this effort."

###

For interviews with Deacon Jim Vargas, please contact Mike Peterson at mike@gomixte.com or (619) 732-0789 x 645.