

SUBJECT: Father Joe's Villages Responds to City Leaders' New Efforts to Address Homelessness

On Thursday night, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and City Councilmember Stephen Whitburn hosted a press conference announcing the rollout of new measures aimed at addressing homelessness.

These measures include making it illegal to camp near public places like shelters, parks, and schools. City leaders also planned to pursue safe campgrounds to provide those experiencing homelessness an alternative to shelter programs.

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

"We welcome efforts to expand the number of shelter beds while investing in other compassionate solutions. These can include street outreach programs to build relationships with and offer additional services to those experiencing homelessness.

Taking someone's possessions or jailing them is not the answer to this growing crisis, and enforcement-only efforts could cause some people experiencing homelessness to shy away from available services that can lead to permanent housing, which is what we all want.

At Father Joe's Villages, we understand that homelessness is ultimately a housing issue. That's why we must prioritize permanent housing for those experiencing homelessness, and the broader construction of affordable housing across our region."

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Deacon Jim Vargas is available for comment and interviews regarding this matter. To schedule an interview, please contact Mike Peterson at mike@gomixte.com or (619) 732-0789 x 645.