

9/26/22

Good afternoon,

The City of El Cajon has issued the following statement in response to the Attorney General's letter received on Friday.

The El Cajon City Council will be discussing the County's motel voucher program and its impact on our community at the upcoming City Council meeting this Tuesday. As part of that meeting, the City Council will discuss the letter received from the Attorney General this weekend and determine what steps should be taken.

Mayor Bill Wells stated, "I find it interesting that the Attorney General came to conclusions without even talking to the City. Based on his tweet from September 24th that stated our 'actions threatened to turn the most vulnerable residents out onto the street based solely on their source of income, no more,' is egregiously false. In the Attorney General's letter or tweet, there was no mention that the County and its contractor have failed to properly screen participants in the voucher program, which has resulted in spikes in crime, increased calls for police and fire service, and increased open drug usage and sales at and around the participating motels. There was also no mention that the El Cajon Police Department has made over 20 arrests near or at the participating motels in just the last ten days. It is obvious that the Attorney General's office based its findings on a one-sided argument."

Mayor Wells continued, "It is also interesting that the County relocating homeless from other parts of the region to El Cajon is in direct violation to the very code section the Attorney General cites. Did the County also receive a letter from the Attorney General?"

The City of El Cajon's critique of the County's mismanaged voucher program is not one that comes from lack of compassion for those who are without shelter, but from one of public safety and an obligation to protect the El Cajon community.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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