



TODD SPITZER
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

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February 21, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: California Homeless State of Emergency

Dear Governor Brown,

It is beyond time to escalate the necessary action required to effectively deal with the plague of homelessness that has infected our great state of California. As Third District Supervisor in Orange County and a former State Assembly Member, I am respectfully requesting that you as our Governor declare a homeless state of emergency.

I am writing to you solely on my own volition as an elected official and citizen, independent of the County Board of Supervisors.

In Orange County, we recently implemented our plan to remove large and growing homeless encampments in my district in order to direct needy individuals to services designed to help them and break the cycle of homelessness. Many are receptive to our help, and many others are not. Orange County is not alone in this dynamic nor is Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento or any city, town or neighborhood in California; the state of homelessness demands urgent, cohesive action. Our best-intentioned efforts in individual geographic regions are failing. As elected leaders, we must develop a more synergistic approach to develop comprehensive solutions at every level from legislative initiative in the Capitol to compassionate care on the street.

Local governments cannot do this in isolation. It's not working. The application of State emergency resources would allow State agencies to join local governments in developing effective policies to address the multi-layered problem of homelessness; affordable housing, emergency shelter, mental health, substance abuse and poverty.

This ongoing struggle of our human condition has reached a critical stage and we must work together on the homeless issue in all public and private sectors for the benefit of our society at large. Public safety must be our top priority - for those living in the condition of homelessness as well as the tax-paying citizens increasingly affected by unsafe and unsanitary repercussions. The people of California deserve our best effort. True leadership is essential in this moment.

Sincerely,

Todd Spitzer
Orange County Supervisor, Third District

Cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly
Members, California Legislature
Members, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Frank Kim, County Executive Officer
The Honorable Steve Jones, Mayor of Garden Grove; President, Associated Cities of California
Cities, Orange County