



TODD SPITZER

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Supervisor Spitzer Joins a Unanimous Board to take Action to Stop “Needle Exchange” in Orange County

(Santa Ana, CA) – The Board of Supervisors, at an emergency Board meeting took action to initiate litigation, on behalf of the County of Orange and the Orange County Flood Control District, against Respondents/Defendants California Department of Public Health (“DPH”), Karen L. Smith, DPH Director, and the Orange County Needle Exchange Program. The Board authorized County Counsel to notify Defendants/Respondents of intention to apply *ex parte* for a temporary restraining order.

“Crime is going up throughout the County. This is not just an issue of needle exchange. The program provides paraphernalia like cookers with no parameters or accountability for the disposal. The state wants to hand out, like candy in neighborhoods, what was once illegal to possess. This is causing a major public safety issue and will fuel already rising crime rates.”

Spitzer emphasized that this is not a stand-alone public safety issue. In Orange County violent crime has already skyrocketed 20%; property crime has risen 17%; and auto burglary is up 40%. There is no doubt that the reckless policies that enable illegal behavior has already threatened Orange County and its residents’ and communities’ safety.

Yesterday, Supervisor Todd Spitzer joined dozens of residents from across the County to support the city of Costa Mesa in taking a stand against the California Department of Public Health’s outrageous authorization of a needle exchange program in Orange County. The proposed mobile needle exchange service was approved by the State to start in Santa Ana, Anaheim, Orange and Costa Mesa as early as August 6th.

“This program is another aspect of crime out of control in Orange County. This is tolerance for lawlessness—which is becoming the norm not the exception—and the County is getting inundated with soft-on-crime measures like this,” Supervisor Spitzer said.

In June the Board of Supervisors joined the cities of Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Orange and Santa Ana in unequivocally opposing a needle exchange program in Orange County. The meeting was called to hold an emergency special meeting to consider the County’s options in opposing the implementation of this dangerous program.

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Supervisor Spitzer listens as a resident speaks out against the reopening of a needle exchange program in Orange County.