



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO**  
**COUNCILMEMBER STEPHEN WHITBURN**  
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATEMENT FROM COUNCILMEMBER STEPHEN WHITBURN ON THE  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF SAFE SLEEPING SITES**

*SAN DIEGO – Third-District Councilmember Stephen Whitburn issued the following statement on the announcement of 2 safe sleeping sites coming to the City of San Diego. The first site will be at the City Maintenance Yard at 20<sup>th</sup> and B streets and is expected to open in July. The second site will be at the “O” Lot south of the Naval Medical Center on the edge of Balboa Park. It is expected to open in September or October.*

**“I have persistently championed the creation of safe sleeping sites because they will reduce the number of people living in encampments on our sidewalks.**

**Today’s announcement that San Diego will open two safe sleeping sites is an important milestone for our city. The establishment of these sites is a win-win approach for people experiencing homelessness and our neighborhoods.**

**With safe sleeping sites, people living outdoors will have a safer, healthier alternative to living in encampments. They will have security, bathrooms, meals, and connections to services. As people move to safe sleeping sites instead of tents on the sidewalks, it will improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods as well.**

**I have spoken to people who are tired of living in squalor on the sidewalk and want to be in a better place but don’t want to go into an enclosed shelter. They have told me they will happily move to a safe sleeping site with bathrooms, security, meals, and services.**

**Today’s announcement is a critical component of my two-part initiative which pairs the addition of safe sleeping sites with my ordinance prohibiting encampments on public property. Having additional safe options for people experiencing homelessness, including safe sleeping sites, congregate or non-congregate shelters, and supportive housing options enables us to restrict encampments where it is unsafe and unhealthy, such as on sidewalks or in canyons.**

**I thank Mayor Gloria for his unprecedented efforts to reduce homelessness. By investing in this safe sleeping program, we will ensure that hundreds of people who are homeless will have an option that is safer and healthier than encampments on the streets.”**

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