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Following Councilmember Campillo's Leadership to Eliminate Red Tape, Father Joe's Villages Announces New Detox Facility at Downtown Site

Site will contain 45 beds, representing a 2250% increase on the number of Medi-Cal eligible detox beds in San Diego

SAN DIEGO — This morning, Councilmember Raul Campillo held a press conference at Father Joe's Villages' downtown site to showcase the announcement of their new detox facility, which was made possible due to the Land Development Code's behavioral health update that Councilmember Campillo championed. Father Joe's Villages' new detox facility is the first such facility to be announced since the passage of the Land Development Code update earlier this month.

"I am proud to have led the City Council in implementing these essential, common-sense changes to the permitting process, allowing behavioral health providers to more easily find locations to deliver their critical care," said San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo. "Because of these changes, more San Diegans will be empowered to take brave steps toward recovery and reclaiming their lives."

"The journey to a fulfilling life and secure housing is unique for each individual experiencing homelessness," said Councilmember Stephen Whitburn. "That is why we are grateful for Father Joe's Villages, which is stepping in to provide both behavioral health services and housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. Their new program is designed to better serve those with behavioral health challenges, helping them overcome their current situation in a safe manner."

"Ending homelessness and saving lives demands we adapt and provide new solutions for the ever changing environment our neighbors in need face." said Deacon Jim Vargas, President & CEO of Father Joe's Villages. "To meet the moment, we will build the region's largest Detox

and sober shelter facility for people struggling with substance use. I'm grateful to Councilmember Campillo and the San Diego City Council for their foresight, as well as to our supporters who will make this initiative possible."

The new detox facility will contain 45 beds that turnover every 14 days, providing a 90-bed complement every month. This marks a 2250% increase on the current number of Medi-Cal eligible detox beds (2) in the City of San Diego. Looking at the region as a whole, there are only 78 of these types of beds in all of San Diego County, thus making the additional 45 beds at the Father Joe's site a more than 57% increase on what exists currently.

This new detox facility would not have been possible without [the Land Development Code \(LDC\) update that came to the City Council in early July](#). Each year, the City of San Diego adopts changes to the way that it governs land-use and permitting; Councilmember Campillo fought for and won changes that lower barriers to building behavioral health facilities.

More specifically, the LDC update made the following changes to behavioral health facilities in San Diego:

1. Streamlines the permitting process for Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) with 7 or more residents by permitting them as a limited use in zones that allow for multifamily development. This change is expected to speed up the permitting process by 6-12 months.
2. Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) building permits will remain ministerial if the same permit holder operates a residential care facility on the same premises as a childcare facility or on a premises adjacent to a childcare facility.
 - a. This change is what specifically allows for the detox facility to be built in a streamlined way, as there is an already-existing on-site childcare facility at Father Joe's Villages. Per behavioral health providers, the on-site childcare is an important way that they provide wraparound services.

The 2024 LDC update will not go into effect until September; however, because this change is already approved, Father Joe's Villages is able to begin planning for their new site.

For more information on the new facility, please see the following articles here:

- [Voice of San Diego: Father Joe's to Replace 350-Bed Shelter with Detox Facility](#)
- [10News: Father Joe's changing East Village shelter into sober living and detox facility](#)
- [FOX 5: Father Joe's converting East Village homeless shelter into detox center](#)

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About Councilmember Raul Campillo

Councilmember Raul Campillo proudly represents the Seventh Council District of the City of San Diego and serves as the Chair of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

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