

CITY OF SAN DIEGO COUNCILMEMBER STEPHEN WHITBURN THIRD DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's Statement Following the Swift Signing of His Unsafe Camping Ordinance by Mayor Todd Gloria

"I want to thank Mayor Gloria for his partnership on this measure and for swiftly signing this common-sense ordinance into law. Today, San Diego neighborhoods are another step closer to becoming safer and healthier."

The Unsafe Camping Ordinance will prohibit encampments on public property when shelter is available and prohibit them at all times within two blocks of schools or shelters, in city parks and open spaces, and near major transportation hubs.

Together, the Unsafe Camping Ordinance and the city's new outdoor Safe Sleeping Sites will help break the cycle of homelessness for unsheltered San Diegans by providing quicker access to services and connections to housing."

The first Safe Sleeping Site is located at 20th and B Streets. This Safe Sleeping Site has 136 tents along with bathrooms, showers, security, meals, and connections to housing and services. The city's second Safe Sleeping Site at the "O Lot" near Naval Medical Center San Diego is scheduled to open in the fall.

The first Safe Sleeping Site opens today, and it gives people experiencing homelessness an alternative to living in encampments on our sidewalks. At the same time, the new ordinance, which takes effect in 30 days, provides clear rules about the use of public land."