



City of Tustin

City of Tustin
300 Centennial Way
Tustin, CA 92780

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE 091918

Subject: Tustin Agrees to Expand Facilities for Homeless to Protect Public Parks

Move by the City was prompted by Federal court case that threatened to allow open homeless camps on City properties.

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The City of Tustin announced today that it had entered into a tentative settlement of a lawsuit that threatened to open the City up to outdoor homeless camps. The settlement calls for 50 new beds to be established by the City within 120 days, to be operated under the same rules that the successful "Bridges at Kraemer" facility in Anaheim operates under.

The settlement comes two weeks after the Ninth Circuit ruled (in *Martin v. Boise*) that cities may no longer enforce their laws against homeless people sleeping in public places unless there are beds available for them in a local secular shelter. Federal District Judge David O. Carter, who is overseeing the case involving Tustin and cities throughout Orange County, made it clear that cities that do not have beds available at secular homeless facilities would not be allowed to enforce their laws against sleeping in public places.

Al Murray, the Mayor of Tustin, stated: "The City Council received many complaints when a homeless encampment appeared at the Tustin Civic Center in 2016 (see accompanying photos), and we are determined to avoid another situation like that one."

The Mayor summarized: "What the Ninth Circuit case means is we have a choice to make between either creating a small, 50-bed facility so we can enforce our laws to prevent such encampments from becoming a big problem in Tustin, or choosing not to have a facility and being prevented from enforcing our laws against camping on public property. We are choosing the path that allows Tustin to enforce our laws, to provide shelter for the willing homeless who are in need, to control our own destiny, and to ensure that parks and public areas remain safe and available for all Tustin residents and provide shelter for the homeless in Tustin."

The specific location of the new Tustin facility has not been determined yet but the City is considering a number of potential alternatives. The Mayor has assured Tustin residents, however, that none of the possible locations are in residential neighborhoods in the City.

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