



February 10, 2016

**MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL**

Judy Ritter
Mayor

Amanda Rigby
Deputy Mayor

John J. Aguilera
Councilmember

Cody Campbell
Councilmember

John Franklin
Councilmember

CITY MANAGER

Patrick Johnson

The Honorable Senator Carol Liu
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5097
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 651-4925

**RE: SB 876 (Liu): Homelessness
NOTICE OF OPPOSITION**

Dear Senator Liu:

The City of Vista opposes SB 876, which preempts local authority to address issues affecting public health and safety in both public spaces and on private property.

While well intentioned, SB 876 will not make a positive impact in the effort to address chronic homelessness. Removing local enforcement authority would actually undermine existing efforts. Further, SB 876 contains no solutions for ending homelessness. The bill on page 3, line 16, specifically states, "passing this Act will not reduce homelessness."

The key to getting people off of the streets is to provide more shelter. Cities and other local agencies need more funding and flexibility to provide programs. The City of Vista is committed to providing affordable housing, having completed several multi-family affordable developments in the last two years. More developments are currently in the planning stages. Further, our community has several non-profit organizations, such as North County Lifeline, Vista Community Clinic, and Interfaith Community Services, that are dedicated to providing services and temporary housing to the homeless population. Providing additional funding to these types of non-profits is the key to providing shelter and addressing the numerous underlying reasons people are homeless in the first place.

For these reasons, the City of Vista opposes SB 876.

Respectfully,

Judy Ritter
Mayor

cc: Assemblyman Rocky Chavez; FAX: 916-319-2176
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