



CITY OF SAN DIEGO • COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 7

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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

- WHAT:** At the site of Father Joe's Villages' new detox facility, which specifically serves San Diegans experiencing homelessness, Councilmember Raul Campillo will explain the need for additional behavioral health capacity in San Diego and walk reporters through the policy changes that he championed that led to this point. Deacon Jim Vargas will enumerate the specifics of the new facility and discuss why Father Joe's Villages is making this change. Councilmember Whitburn, whose Council District this facility is in, and Marisa Varond will give additional context on homelessness and behavioral health.
- WHO:** Raul Campillo, San Diego City Councilmember (7th District)
Stephen Whitburn, San Diego City Councilmember (3rd District)
Deacon Jim Vargas, President and CEO of Father Joe's Villages
Marisa Varond, Executive Director of McAlister Institute
- WHERE:** Father Joe's Villages, 1501 Imperial Ave, San Diego, CA 92101
Press conference to take place at courtyard on 15th street; see attached for exact location
- WHEN:** 8:30am, Wednesday, July 31, 2024
- WHY:** Councilmember Raul Campillo led the effort to update the Land Development Codes (LDC) to eliminate barriers and red tape for building behavioral health facilities across San Diego. Because of these changes, Father Joe's Villages is able to provide 45 detox beds at their new facility for low-income patients. These beds are sorely needed in San Diego; since 2019, over 1772 people have died of fentanyl-related deaths in San Diego County. The 45 new beds at the Father Joe's site represent a 2250% increase on the current number of Medi-Cal eligible beds (2) in the City of San Diego.
- VISUALS:** Speakers at podium
Healthcare and treatment-focused signage
Site of new facility, which is currently a day shelter, in background
Nurses and behavioral health workers standing in support in scrubs

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