



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

February 25, 2015

Michael Keith, Chief Executive Officer
Downtown Tucson Partnership
100 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 101
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Re: Dreampods and Homeless Protest

Dear Mr. Keith:

As you know, a large number of homeless protesters have congregated in the public right of way immediately adjacent to the Pima County Administrative Complex. I understand your agency has met with the City of Tucson regarding certain sanitary-related activities that will be undertaken by the Downtown Tucson Partnership (DTP).

I would request much more frequent actions by the DTP to include litter pickup and removal of trash from receptacles immediately adjacent to tents, dreampods and other homeless encampments in the public right of way.

In addition, the area should be frequently cleaned and disinfected. I would appreciate you paying particular attention to disinfecting the earthen areas underneath the pedestrian walkway bridge between the County complex and La Placita Village, as I believe the stench generating from this area clearly indicates it is being used as an outdoor toilet. I am enclosing a copy of a Health Department Notice of Violation given to the County. I have directed our Facilities Management Director to have any violations that occur on County property immediately cleaned.

Finally, the parking spaces used by public gaining access to Pima County governmental functions are frequently used by others who are camped in either tents or dreampods in the public right of way. This use effectively blocks public use of these parking spaces. I ask that you confer with Park Tucson about how best to determine, through wheel chalking or other activities, whether these spaces are being used for legitimate public business or simply to facilitate the individuals participating in the homeless protest.

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I understand these actions increase the amount of resources you must devote to this downtown activity; however, given the disruption being caused to pedestrian flow, access to public services, trash generation and unsanitary conditions, devoting additional resources is absolutely necessary.

The County has also expended considerable additional resources related to this matter. The Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) regularly dispatches enforcement officers to talk with those encamped on or around Congress Street and Church Avenue to make them aware of regulations concerning unlicensed or unleashed dogs in the area. PACC officers are citing dog owners when necessary.

The Health Department has been sending personnel from the Consumer Health and Food Safety Unit to the area on a weekly basis to identify areas of concern that need to be addressed to ensure public health. I have asked that they provide you and the City with a copy of their weekly reports.

We are now assembling a list of resources to assist these individuals and hope you will use your network of ambassadors to distribute this information. The County, through our General Fund, makes significant contributions to nonprofit social service agencies that address the issues of homelessness, public health and other matters. We will be alerting these agencies and asking that they offer or provide direct services to the individuals engaged in this activity. In addition, Pima County One Stop, in conjunction with the Housing Center, provides many resources to help people move from living on the street to working and living in affordable housing. The County will continue to address this population and provide support for those looking to get off the streets.

I would appreciate your devoting additional resources as requested in this letter to the current encampment in front of our complex.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/anc

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Health Department
Martha Durkin, Interim City Manager, City of Tucson