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City of Sacramento's Process and Fulfillment Response to Voter-Approved Measure O Guidelines Completely Unacceptable, Results in Public Outcry

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Late last year and after a severe lack of appropriate response from Sacramento City and County leaders on the urgent human and economic crisis of skyrocketing homelessness and crime in our community, voters passed Measure O – also known as the Emergency Shelter and Enforcement Act (ESEA).

The measure, which became official on January 1, 2023, due to the successful signing of a binding partnership agreement between the City and County of Sacramento specifically creates a mechanism for residents harmed by unlawful camping or unlawful storage on City-owned property to commence abatement proceedings against the City through the creation of a clear abatement process.

On June 21, the City of Sacramento launched its abatement portal tool. However, instead of an actionable plan to solve this crisis in good faith partnership with the citizens who have been desperately seeking relief from the dangerous and inhuman conditions including human waste, rats, drugs and heaping piles of garbage, more than 50+ Sacramentans who engaged with the tool were immediately given an auto response that says the following: "Because the City already has allocated more than the maximum amount required by the ESEA, it has met its obligations for fiscal year 2023/24 and is not required to fund additional services."

Additionally, the City of Sacramento has communicated that there can be no hearing process as outlined in Measure O because they refuse to hire the staff to support it.

"This refusal by the City Manager and City Council to fulfill the will of the voters and address basic safety and cleanliness for our neighborhoods is outrageous and completely unacceptable," said Amanda Blackwood, President & CEO of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. "This is yet another stark example of the lack of leadership from those we elected to do so. The obligation to the basic safety and welfare of our community is not a budget exercise. It is a moral and ethical promise to the people they claim to

represent. We strongly urge the citizens of Sacramento to make your voice heard to this body and demand that instead of finding loopholes to avoid tough challenges they instead roll up their sleeves, do the work, and answer the cries for help with transparency and good faith.”

“The Sacramento business community has heard you loud and clear,” said Joshua Wood, Chief Executive Officer of the Sacramento Region Business Association. “To respond to the community who voted for solutions and are subjected daily to increasing violence, crime, and blight with a note saying that we’ve done our part, call me a year from now and maybe we will help you then is absolutely stunning. There is not a will to lead from those we elected to do so and any claims of this body that we can collaborate in good faith to find solutions is a complete farce. We shall no longer engage in this shell game and are now unfortunately left with the need to pursue other options to enforce the will of Sacramento’s voters.”

The public outcry following the auto response was swift and the City has called a special meeting of the Council for today (Tuesday, June 27) at noon. The public can attend in person or watch online through the City’s website available via this [link](#).

For more information about the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, please visit www.metrochamber.org. And, for more information about the Sacramento Region Business Association, please visit www.regionbusiness.org.

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