



Press Release

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CITY OF CHINO HILLS FILES AN AMICUS LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY'S SUPREME COURT PETITION FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF COVID-19 MEASURES

Chino Hills, CA – The City of Chino Hills City Council voted to file an Amicus Letter in support of the petition filed by the County of San Bernardino (County) directly in the California Supreme Court on December 15, 2020. The County asks the court to find that Governor Gavin Newsom's Stay-at-Home Orders exceed the authority granted in the California Emergency Services Act and usurps the State Legislature's role in governing. According to the Petition, the County seeks to exercise local control in response to the COVID-19 pandemic rather than be subject to the State's regional approach that treats all counties as if they were the same.

"The City of Chino Hills supports the County of San Bernardino's position that a one-size-fits-all approach to regulations and orders should not be imposed across the largest county in the continental United States," said Chino Hills Mayor Brian Johsz. "Our City and the business community work to protect the safety of the public and have been successful in doing so. Now our City finds itself in a place where the State issues ever-changing edicts, without regard for specific local conditions, and those edicts endanger the livelihoods of our small business community. Vesting power in the Governor with arbitrary and unending "emergency" control of the future of our City is problematic. We are asking for checks and balances that ensure the State Legislature provides necessary oversight during declared emergencies."

The Governor's December 3, 2020 Regional Stay-at-Home Order included San Bernardino County in an even larger geographic region defined as Southern California. According to Mayor Johsz, the additional effects of the new mandated closures on Chino Hills' business and residents have been devastating. Some businesses have been forced to close their doors. Mayor Johsz referred to the significant investments made by the business community to comply with ever-changing requirements, and their efforts to work hard to operate safely and protect their employees and customers.

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“These business closures ripple throughout Chino Hills, affecting business owners, employees, and customers,” said Mayor Johsz. “Our businesses know and recognize the importance of protecting public health during this unprecedented pandemic. We continue to urge residents to wear masks and socially distance themselves to support safe business operations. There are profound consequences to our City and residents if businesses do not see relief from restrictions that prevent them from safely operating.”

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