



Press Release

PR23 – 021

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DATE: May 17, 2023

CITY OF CHINO HILLS PUBLIC WORKS STAFF RECOVERS MISSING ENGAGEMENT RING IN CITY SEWER SYSTEM



City of Chino Hills sanitation crew pictured with resident whose missing engagement ring was recovered.

Chino Hills, CA – The City of Chino Hills Public Works staff have recovered a resident’s missing engagement ring and reunited it with its original owner after more than a year after it was accidentally flushed down a residential toilet. The ring was first reported missing in March 2022 when City staff made initial yet unsuccessful attempts to locate and recover it until it was discovered in May of 2023 during the City’s routine sewer maintenance in the resident’s neighborhood.

In March of 2022, the City’s Public Works Department received a call from a resident whose fiancée’s engagement ring was accidentally flushed down the toilet by his soon-to-be stepson. Once he realized the ring was missing, he did what he could to try and retrieve it, even removing the toilet from the flange. He mentioned to staff that he rented a sewer inspection camera to search for the ring in the drainpipes and while he was able to see it, he may have inadvertently pushed the ring further down the pipe while trying to locate it.

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City staff brought out the closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection truck and searched the City's mainline in an attempt to retrieve the ring. Staff suspected that since the residence is located at the end of a cul-de-sac, it was likely the ring could not have traveled very far even with laundry and showers being taken for a couple of days. City sanitation staff attempted to flush the resident's sewer system several times while inspecting the City's mainline in hopes the ring would turn up, however it was unsuccessful. The sanitation staff left and let the resident know there was still hope that someday they would find the ring.

Over a year later in May of 2023, the City's sanitation crew was performing their routine sewer maintenance in the resident's neighborhood when they discovered a ring and worked to retrieve it. Staff who were originally in contact with the resident in March 2022 reached out to the resident to confirm the details of the missing ring, and once it was confirmed the ring was sterilized and returned to the resident the next day. The City's sanitation crew was excited to be able to return the ring to the resident and see the resident's expression of happiness to have it back.

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