

September 7, 2021  
City Council Meeting  
Public Comments

**Public Comments**

**Non-Agenda Item**

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# CITY OF SANTA ANA

2021 SEP - 7 PM 2: 03  
CITY OF ORANGE  
CITY CLERK

September 7, 2021

Orange City Council  
300 E Chapman Avenue  
Orange, CA 92866

Dear Orange City Council:

As a Councilmember for the City of Santa Ana, I oppose the decision by the City of Orange to prematurely terminate their contract with Mary's Kitchen, and the subsequent looming shutdown of this non-profit organization that has been serving the City for over three decades. Mary's Kitchen is community-wide effort to offer food and services to the less fortunate homeless population in the city. Shutting down the only means of aid that some of these individuals have access to is not only unfair to the widespread support that this organization has offered; it is inhumane to do so amid an ongoing pandemic.

Mary's Kitchen is a communal effort of around 25 daily volunteers to help those in need through three hot meals a day, services such as showers and laundry services, and much more. By offering an accepting and easily accessible place for the homeless community to receive help and receive vital services, Mary's Kitchen has proven to be an integral part of the community. Many of the lives affected by this organization share a common sense of passion and appreciation for Mary's Kitchen. Without a set plan to alleviate the sudden removal of Mary's Kitchen and its decades-long positive impact on the City of Orange, the homeless community that this organization has served for so long will be subsequently abandoned and left with no immediate alternative following the proposed shutdown. This will have lasting impacts on the community, as the homeless population will disperse across the city in search of resources that can attempt to fill the void that the sudden removal of Mary's Kitchen will leave. In turn, the homelessness crisis will further expand across the city and the distribution of city resources to alleviate this issue will be that much more difficult to enact.

The homelessness crisis affects all of Orange County, and I acknowledge the efforts by individual cities to provide support services to individuals experiencing homelessness. I strongly encourage the Orange City Council to reconsider the removal of this decades-long non-profit organization which has been an integral part of the community for so long.

If you have any questions relating to the contents of this letter, or if you would like to discuss further, please contact me at (714) 647-6900.

Sincerely,

Jessie Lopez  
Councilmember

CITY ATTORNEY  
Sonia R. Carvalho

CITY MANAGER  
Kristine Ridge

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL  
Daisy Gomez