

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-xx**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS BY THE COSTA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ORANGE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ELIMINATE THE THREAT OF FENTANYL IN THE COMMUNITY**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the increasing prevalence of fentanyl poses a significant public health and safety risk to Costa Mesa residents and Orange County communities; and

WHEREAS, nationwide drug-related deaths exceeded 100,000 between April 2020 and April 2021. Fentanyl is a significant contributing factor to this alarming statistic; and

WHEREAS, Orange County fentanyl-related deaths increased from 37 in 2016 to 432 in 2020, an 1100% increase. In that same period, statewide fentanyl related deaths increased from 239 to 3,857, an increase of over 1600%; and

WHEREAS, many of these deaths are the result of individuals and drug dealers furnishing counterfeit pills containing illicit fentanyl. The person consuming is unaware of the fentanyl presence; and

WHEREAS, the Costa Mesa Police Department continues its efforts to interdict and seize illegal narcotics. During the period of 2018 to 2022, the Costa Mesa Police Department's Special Investigation Unit seized 267.5 pounds of fentanyl and over 15,000 fentanyl-laced pills, and arrested numerous suspects identified in the manufacturing of fentanyl pills. The total street value was approximately \$2.5 million. These seizures contained millions of potentially lethal doses and saved countless lives; and

WHEREAS, the Costa Mesa Police Department and other Orange County law enforcement agencies have begun issuing advisements to anyone identified as furnishing fentanyl to others. The advisement explains that fentanyl use is extremely dangerous to human life and if the individual continues to furnish fentanyl to others and its use causes the death of a person, the individual can be charged with homicide. The Orange County District Attorney's Office has adopted a similar policy advising offenders convicted of

certain drug-related charges that if they commit an additional drug-related crime again and someone dies as a result, they can be charged with murder; and

WHEREAS, the Costa Mesa Police Department has partnered with the Drug Enforcement Agency on its public awareness campaign, "One Pill Can Kill," to raise awareness that pills obtained outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially deadly. This message is reiterated on the Costa Mesa Police Department's social media pages. The Costa Mesa Police Department has also adopted a campaign to inform local motels of the dangers fentanyl poses to their customers.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA HEREBY RESOLVES that the City Council joins the Costa Mesa Police Department and Orange County law enforcement agencies in committing to eliminate the threat of fentanyl to our community. The City of Costa Mesa commits to devoting resources to the interdiction of narcotics, holding drug traffickers accountable, and raising public awareness about the dangers of drug use.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of March, 2022.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Stephens, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Green, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Hall Barlow, City Attorney

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE ) ss  
CITY OF COSTA MESA )

I, BRENDA GREEN, City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is the original of Resolution No. 2022- \_\_ and was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa at a regular meeting held on the 15th day of March, 2022, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereby set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Costa Mesa this 15th day of March, 2022.

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Brenda Green, City Clerk