



209-525-6333

Chief Executive Office  
City Manager's Office  
1010 10<sup>TH</sup> Street  
Modesto, CA 95354



209-577-5224

August 20, 2018

Tammy Alcantor  
City Manager  
City of Escalon  
2060 McHenry Avenue  
Escalon, CA 95320

Dear Ms. Alcantor:

We are writing this joint communication to the City of Escalon to express our deep concern with the practices of the Escalon Police Department related to transporting homeless individuals to the City of Modesto. We request an immediate review and formal response to the following information.

On August 16, 2018, we learned that the Escalon Police Department transported two transients from Escalon to Modesto. They were dropped off at the Rite Aid Drug Store at 1707 McHenry where they were witnessed loitering and littering on the lawn of the drug store for the next day resulting in multiple complaints to the City of Modesto Police Department. When contacted by the Modesto Police Chief, the Escalon Police Chief expressed no concern with the actions of his department, and appeared to justify this incident as conforming to department policy and practice.

We have conducted a thorough records search of the two homeless individuals left in Modesto by the Escalon Police Department. Our records indicate no prior residency in Modesto or Stanislaus County, as well as no records of services provided to these individuals in our social services system. Both individuals do have long histories of criminal activity, all of which was in the Bay Area and San Joaquin County, including the City of Escalon. Simply put, it is clear that members of the Escalon Police Department transported two homeless individuals from Escalon into Modesto, while knowing those individuals had significant criminal backgrounds, no history of residence in Stanislaus County, and have caused significant disruption in the City of Escalon. This action appears only to be an attempt to avoid responsibility for individuals in your community and place the burden on another City in a completely different County.

We request your immediate attention to the policies of the Escalon Police Department in their dealing with homeless individuals transported from the City of Escalon. We are preparing a Public Records Request for any and all such incidents to better understand the full impact of this practice on our community. For now, we ask that you provide copies of all reports and records (including video footage) in your possession for the

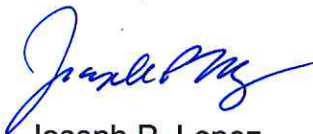
incident described above. We can provide specific personal identification information for the two referenced individuals if necessary.

For many years the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County have received allegations that our community has been on the receiving end of other communities who transport homeless individuals into our community to avoid their responsibility for addressing the impacts of homelessness. This creates a significant hurdle for our community as we already struggle to develop programs and resources necessary to address the homeless challenge within our own community. Absent an acceptable explanation for why the Escalon Police Department transports homeless into other cities and counties without the mutual consent of receiving agencies, we demand an immediate end to this practice along with an accounting of all prior instances in which you have transported homeless into Stanislaus County.

The State of California is experiencing a homeless crisis. Our community is no exception to this crisis, and we are working tirelessly to identify potential strategies to make a difference in the homeless population going forward. This is a very difficult process and requires significant partnerships throughout the community to build hope for real solutions and a better community for all residents of Stanislaus County. We encourage the City of Escalon to undertake the same challenge in developing solutions to this crisis that recognize every community's individual responsibility to address the homeless individuals within their community. We are available to share the work underway in our community at any time, however, it should be abundantly clear that our efforts to address homelessness in Stanislaus County do not include the resources and capacity necessary to address this issue for other communities who do not serve their own.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Lopez  
City Manager  
City of Modesto



Jody L. Hayes  
Chief Executive Officer  
Stanislaus County

cc: Escalon City Council  
Modesto City Council  
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors