



City of Placentia Press Release

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Contact: Damien R. Arrula
City Administrator
(714) 993-8171
administration@placentia.org

GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION HELD FOR THE PLACENTIA VETERANS VILLAGE

PLACENTIA, CA – The City of Placentia, in partnership with the County of Orange, Mercy Housing California, and New Directions for Veterans celebrated the groundbreaking of the Placentia Veterans Village today. The celebration marks the official start of construction for a permanent supportive housing development in Orange County designed to serve military veterans who are homeless or disabled.

“Placentia remains dedicated to ensuring that all veterans who have served our country have access to quality housing,” said Placentia Mayor Chad Wanke. “The Placentia Veterans Village is a testament to our commitment to ending homelessness and providing support to our veterans. I was humbled to take part in this monumental groundbreaking ceremony today with our community to celebrate the beginning of this noteworthy development.”

The development is located within a 3.65-acre unimproved site comprised of two parcels; one is owned by the Orange County Flood Control District and the adjacent parcel is privately owned. The development is located adjacent to a newly constructed street near the intersection of Orangethorpe Avenue and Lakeview Avenue; north of the Atwood Flood Control Channel. The current property is vacant and has frequently been used for illegal dumping. The new development will improve the property significantly while addressing a need in Orange County and throughout the nation. The development’s future address will be 1945 Veterans Way.

The Placentia Veterans Village will include fifty (50) furnished apartment homes (forty-nine (49) for veterans and one (1) for one-site management unit), a courtyard, community garden, recreation room, energy efficient design and appliances, computer room, and resident services offices. The state-of-the-art development will be LEED Gold, utilizing energy efficient design principles and building materials. The 360-degree design will be high-quality craftsman style architecture.

Once constructed, veterans will have access to comprehensive on-site supportive services including case management, physical and mental health services, employment services, life skills training, and counseling.

“It truly takes a vision, capacity and dedication to make this possible. The City’s partnership with the County of Orange, Mercy Housing, New Directions for Veterans, and several State and Federal organizations have been instrumental in our efforts to plan, design and fund this state-of-art development,” said Placentia City Administrator Damien R. Arrula. “We are proud to deliver one of Orange County’s largest homeless housing development for veterans. They have proudly served this great Country and now it’s our turn to serve them.”

“I’m proud that my fellow County Supervisors and I have been able to commit \$2.754 million in funding and the use of 49 Project-Based Department of Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers toward this project on OC Flood Control District property,” said Supervisor Shawn Nelson, Fourth District. “The Placentia Veterans Village will contribute to the overall system of care being developed in Orange County and, in particular, will help address the needs of veterans experiencing homelessness. This project shows what can be accomplished through partnerships, and it serves as a template for future developments across Orange County for our American veterans.”

“Mercy Housing is proud to partner with the City of Placentia, County of Orange and New Directions for Veterans to create 50 much needed homes for veterans experiencing homelessness. All of our partners have shown unwavering commitment to building a community that will stabilize and transform lives. At the same time, we know that with over 3,500 homeless veterans in Orange County, there is much more work to be done” said Ed Holder, Regional Vice President of Mercy Housing California.

“It’s an unfortunate reality that veterans are more likely than civilians to experience homelessness in their lifetime due to factors like Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other traumas,” said U.S. Marine Corps Capt. (Ret) Leo Cuadrado, Chief Operating Officer of New Directions for Veterans. “Placentia Veterans Village will give 49 veterans a place to call home, where they will have on-site supportive services and resources available to them to ensure their success. This will be a community of veterans where they can find their way forward with our continued support.”

For additional information on this unique partnership, please visit www.placentia.org/veteransvillage or call the City of Placentia at (714) 993-8264.

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