

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Garden Grove, Westminster, and Fountain Valley Break Ground on Central Cities Navigation Center

WESTMINSTER, Calif. – The Cities of Garden Grove, Westminster, and Fountain Valley broke ground on the new Central Cities Navigation Center at a ceremony held Tuesday, June 13. Anticipated to open Spring 2024, the Central Cities Navigation Center is in Garden Grove at 13871 West Street; and is a referral-based, transitional facility offering emergency housing and wrap-around services to individuals experiencing homelessness from any of the three cities.

"This navigation center is a very big, proactive step to taking accountability and action in the fight to end homelessness in our community. Westminster is committed to helping our most vulnerable residents and addressing their needs by providing the tools and resources necessary. We thank our neighboring cities of Garden Grove and Fountain Valley for supporting this collaborative effort, and the County of Orange for their contributions toward this navigation center," said Westminster Mayor Chi Charlie Nguyen.

The facility will operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week; serve approximately 170 adults; and provide up to 100 beds. Among the residential services clients will receive are three daily meals, access to laundry facilities, pet accommodation, and transportation to and from the facility. Support services will include one-on-one case management, mental health and stabilization resources, substance use counseling, education services and life-skills development, employment assistance, and job training.

"The start of the Central Cities Navigation Center brings us closer to helping those who are seeking more than just shelter, but also the stability of permanent housing, employment, and personal health and wellness. My thanks to the cities of Westminster and Fountain Valley for their valuable support and partnership in this wonderful endeavor," said Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones. Last year, the partner cities entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to establish joint financing, operations, and provision of services of the Central Cities Navigation Center. Earlier this year, the County of Orange unanimously approved contributions totaling \$11.5 million for the project, with \$5.3 million going to construction/renovation, and \$6.2 million for operations. The three cities will contribute to the annual cost of operations over the next 10 years. The operating cost for the 2023/24 Fiscal Year is approximately \$2.6 million.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to break ground on the Central Cities Navigation Center, a symbol of unity and cooperation between Fountain Valley, Westminster, and Garden Grove. This project is a testament to our shared belief that every individual deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity for a brighter future. Together, we are building more than a center, we are building hope for a better tomorrow for all of our residents," said Fountain Valley Mayor Kim Constantine.

For more information on the Central Cities Navigation Center, visit <u>www.ggcity.org/navigation-center</u>, <u>www.fountainvalley.org/1441/central-cities-navigation-center</u>, or <u>www.westminster-ca.gov/departments/city-manager/navigation-center</u>.

To learn about the City of Westminster's current and future efforts directed to homelessness, visit <u>https://www.westminster-ca.gov/departments/police/services/homeless-outreach</u>.

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