April 8, 2020

San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer
City of San Diego
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

San Diego Council President Georgette Gomez
City of San Diego
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Mayor Faulconer and Council President Gomez:

We are writing to request a moratorium on all arrests and ticketing of homeless people for Vehicle Habitation, illegal lodging and encroachment during the Coronavirus outbreak. We also call for a moratorium on the impoundments of vehicles used by homeless people for shelter.

As you know, due to a lack of affordable housing, San Diego County has the 4th largest homeless population in the nation with almost 5000 men, women and children living on city streets. Because of the ongoing Coronavirus crisis the need for all residents to shelter in place is paramount in preventing the spread of the disease. Ticketing homeless individuals who have no place to live and removing their only shelter rather than allow them to shelter in place is counter-productive, inhumane and could unnecessarily expose our first responders to Coronavirus.

Again, we respectfully request a moratorium on all arrests, ticketing and vehicle impoundments of homeless people for Vehicle Habitation, illegal lodging and encroachment during the Coronavirus outbreak while continuing efforts to house this most vulnerable population.

Thank you for allowing us to weigh in on this important issue, we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Flores
LISC San Diego

Grace Martinez
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action

Rafael Bautista
San Diego Tenants Union

Ann E. Menasche
Disability Rights California
Adriana Huerta
Justice Overcoming Boundaries (JOB)

Nancy Maldonado
Chicano Federation

Diana Ross
Mid-City CAN

Catherine Mendonca
San Diego Copwatch