

Public Comment emails on Needle Exchange

From: Shelley Iocona [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2018 10:36 AM
To: SEApplication@cdph.ca.gov; GENIS, SANDRA
Subject: Shelley Iocona - Katama Bay Drive, Costa Mesa, CA

June 23, 2018

To the California Department of Public Health,

I was recently made aware of the pending approval of the OC Needle Exchange Program's (OCNEP) request to your organization to operate a needle exchange program in the City of Costa Mesa, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section [tel: 121349](#) et. Seq. I'm deeply disappointed that a professional organization that exists to protect the public at large would approve this program which has proven to be ineffective in other markets. I believe this "solution" is simply a 'band aid' to a larger systemic issue, and I implore your organization to deal with the issue at its core. It is my belief that this needle exchange fails to address the problem and increases the risk of endangering the public at large.

Given my position on the issue, myself and my fellow community members will fight this as long as we need to, to ensure this program has no home within our beloved Costa Mesa.

There is a glaring red flag that our neighboring community, the City of Santa Ana, has already prevented OCNEP from operating within their city limits, and rallied residents to petition this with their city officials. Santa Ana also concluded that this program did not reduce hypodermic needle waste, or the transmission of blood borne diseases associated with hypodermic needle drug use, but that the program did the inverse. Hence, the program needing to find a new home. We do not support that home being here in Costa Mesa.

Our community supports various sober living communities and does not want to become a magnet for drug users from other cities, or to undermine successful rehab programs locally, let alone put our families and children in harm's way. Additionally, I am concerned that this program would be approved in proximity to the numerous schools located on Monrovia. It's irresponsible of the California Department of Public Health to do anything but deny this permit.

As a home owner, community member, and small business owner in Costa Mesa, I'm disturbed by the thought that a program like this could be approved with zero involvement or partnership from our local officials and community. We stand with the Mayor's Office, Costa Mesa Police and Fire Departments, our City's Homeless Outreach Team, and our District Attorney's Office with a firm 'not here'. You'll be hearing from many of my neighbors that live directly within the targeted neighborhood if you haven't already. Please do the right thing. Costa Mesa has a bright future and it does not involve the OCNEP as a black eye among its initiatives for a better tomorrow.

Thank you.

Regards,

Shelley Iocona

CC: Sandy Genis, Mayor, City of Costa Mesa

Thanks for the email. The City Council unanimously opposes this proposed needle exchange. I appreciate that you sent your feedback to the State officials.

Thanks.

John Stephens

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 24, 2018, at 3:16 PM, Teresa Secret  >
wrote:

Subject: No Costa Mesa Needle Exchange at busy school crossing

California Department of Health Officials,

I am a long time resident that lives in the proposed area of needle distribution at Monrovia and 18th in Costa Mesa.

This location is the exact intersection young children walk to/from school.

They have had to endure stepping over vomit and sometimes walk in it by mistake from addicts shooting up and getting sick. I beg you not to do a needle exchange at this location as it will draw more addicts to West side...of course they toss the used needles in the grass and have no intention of doing a 1 to 1 exchange... Think of what it would be like if it weren't 1 to 1. Oh, my. Handing out more than one is not going to get them to return all of them. This approach will not work. It is like bringing bandaids to an epidemic. Too late. Think about the children who don't know the dangers of playing with a freshly used needle.

I don't want this behavior normalized either. We work hard to protect our future leaders to exposure to drug and alcohol induced people. We are working as a community for "our West side" kids and we must protect them from this very activity as it is just too much for their young minds to comprehend.

(Please excuse th mis'typing as I am sending from my phone and am very

passionate about protecting our future generation from any positive actions toward or negative aspect of drug and alcohol issues.) They simply should not have any exposure or subsequent ramifications from it...even if it is well meaning. You just don't expose them to the horrific problem. Find a better solution to the epidemic and don't normalize it to our children PLEASE. You are working against our positive actions by doing the needle exchange in West side. Please stop now.

Teresa Secrest
Engaged long-time resident

From: Nicole Guido [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2018 5:31 PM
To: SEPApplication@cdph.ca.gov
Cc: Carmin Tomassi; GENIS, SANDRA
Subject: Costa Mesa OCNEP - Permit

To whom it may concern,

It was recently brought to my husband and I's attention that there was a permit application pending in Costa Mesa for a mobile needle exchange program between 16th and 18th streets in Costa Mesa.

While we believe that needle exchange programs are an important part of public health we also believe that such programs should be located in the safest places possible to avoid unintended consequences. Locating the mobile needle exchange in the area between 16th, 18th and Monrovia would pose a greater public health risk to our most vulnerable citizens, our children.

The proposed location for the needle exchange is one block away from an elementary school, Whittier Elementary. My family and I also live within the proposed boundaries of the program. In our community there are many young families with many small children that deserve protection from the increased risk that these types of programs ultimately bring to a neighborhood. The young families in the area spend lots of time walking, biking, and exploring the neighborhood. The thought of one of the kids in the area finding a needle or worse sticking themselves with one of those needles is repulsive to us. We must protect our children!

In addition there are many small businesses in the area that will suffer from the increased presence of drug activity. There is a thriving small business environment in westside Costa Mesa, including many home offices, large apparel companies, other small businesses that will be threatened by an increase in the presence of drug activity.

In addition, as you may know the residents of Costa Mesa already bear a disproportionate share of the burden in regards to sober living homes, drug rehabs, and other transient activity. This program would be overwhelming to our already burdened community.

Westside Costa Mesa is an up and coming neighborhood and is a really exciting place to live, work and play. None of this is possible unless it is safe for everyone. Safety is first and foremost and we feel strongly that this program would negatively impact the safety of the neighborhood and have a direct impact on the quality of life for our children!

Please reconsider locating the needle exchange in an area where there are less children present and where business would not be negatively impacted. Perhaps, near a hospital or other public health complex would be a more appropriate location for this type of activity.

We have notified our neighbors of the application for the program and all of them feel the way that we do. They do not want it in our neighborhood! In addition, we have notified our HOA and we are prepared to seek any and all further legal remedies available to us.

Thank you for your consideration.
Nicole and Carmin Tomassi

From: Philip Grieco [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2018 8:43 PM
To: GENIS, SANDRA
Subject: OC Needle Exchange / West Side Costa Mesa

Hi Sandy,

We recently bought a new home in Costa Mesa at the Lighthouse. I heard from several neighbors that you passed through and shared info specific to the OC Mobile Needle Exchange. Thank you for shedding light to this initiative.

A sizable group of us in our neighborhood are concerned. We are wondering if it's best to each send a letter, and if so, if using a template letter is okay, for consistency, or if it's best to send one note and have a group of signatures with it. Any thoughts or guidance would be helpful. We want to help and make a noticeable impact.

Thanks in advance and hope to meet you sometime.

Phil Grieco
1040 Leece Drive
Costa Mesa

From: BP [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 7:50 AM
To: SEPApplication@cdph.ca.gov
Cc: GENIS, SANDRA
Subject: OCNEP

To the CDPH,

I am writing to comment on the Orange County Needle Exchange Program application for the city of Costa Mesa. We are long time residents in the Newport Beach/Costa Mesa neighborhoods

and have seen some exciting and positive growth in West Side Costa Mesa.. Though we believe OCNEP has merit in some communities, we strongly oppose a collection and distribution of needles to addicts in the area of Costa Mesa bounded by (N) West 18th Street, (E) Monrovia Avenue, (S) West 16th Street, (W) The outer border of Armstrong Petroleum. This neighborhood has been evolving over the past several years bringing new “homes” and businesses to the city of Costa Mesa resulting in increased revenues and positive growth. The OCNEP will end business development in this neighborhood and quite possibly drive current businesses out of the West Side.

There are also 2 elementary schools in this neighborhood that should be considered. These young students should not be exposed to the many potential dangers by the individuals these programs attract. Jemma Alcaron made this statement in April, obviously not researching the area to see that there are families and schools in the exact area they are proposing to park these needle exchange vans: **“The locations that we’re hoping to work at are largely industrial zones, so we’re definitely trying to stay away from places where there are children around,” Alarcon said.** Parents with babies in strollers and children in hand are in this very neighborhood. Alcaron did not do her homework!

The CDPH/OA and the OCNEP hasn’t done enough to notify the residents in this neighborhood about this SEP Application. Every resident and business owner affected should be made "directly" aware of this application. What are you doing to get the word out?

I urge you to be responsible and contact the schools, residents and businesses in this neighborhood. Seek their comments and opinions so that you can get these program in the right neighborhoods. Keep these programs away from schools, residents and positive small business growth areas.

BP Terry
Resident and Business Owner in the Lighthouse Community
16th and Monrovia
Costa Mesa, CA

From: Truc Mai [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 1:51 PM
To: SEPAApplication@cdph.ca.gov
Cc: GENIS, SANDRA
Subject: OCNEP mobile needle exchange in Costa Mesa

I have recently learned about OCNEP’s proposal to operate a mobile needle exchange in my neighborhood. I am against such a program for multiple reasons. The biggest reason being attracting drug users into the area and possible increase in discarded needles. Please do not allow this to happen.

TRUC MAI
[REDACTED]

From: Philip Grieco [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 10:55 PM
To: SEPApplication@cdph.ca.gov
Cc: GENIS, SANDRA; Philip Grieco
Subject: OCNEP - Not in Costa Mesa...

June 20, 2018

To the California Department of Public Health,

I was recently made aware of the pending approval of the OC Needle Exchange Program's (OCNEP) request to your organization to operate a needle exchange program in the City of Costa Mesa, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 121349 et. Seq. I'm disgusted and enraged that a professional organization that exists to protect the public at large would approve this ineffective program as a 'band aid' to a larger systemic issue, vs. dealing with the issue at its core, while also endangering the public at large. Regardless, myself and my fellow community members will fight this as long as we need to, to ensure this program has no home within our beloved Costa Mesa.

There is a glaring red flag that our neighboring community, the City of Santa Ana, has already prevented OCNEP from operating within their city limits, and rallied residents to petition this with their city officials. Santa Ana also concluded that this program did not reduce hypodermic needle waste, or the transmission of blood borne diseases associated with hypodermic needle drug use, but that the program did the inverse. Hence, the program needing to find a new home. Not here in Costa Mesa.

Our community supports various sober living communities and does not want to become a magnet for drug users from other cities, or undermine successful rehab programs locally, let alone put our families and children in harm's way. It's irresponsible of the California Department of Public Health to do anything but deny this permit.

As a home owner, community member, husband, and father of a young child living in Costa Mesa, I'm disgusted with the thought that a program like this could be approved with zero involvement or partnership from our local officials and community. We stand with the Mayor's Office, Costa Mesa Police and Fire Departments, our City's Homeless Outreach Team, and our District Attorney's Office with a firm 'not here'. You'll be hearing from many of my neighbors that live directly within the targeted neighborhood if you haven't already. Please do the right thing. Costa Mesa has a bright future and it does not involve the OCNEP as a black eye among its initiatives for a better tomorrow.

Thank you.

Regards,
Philip C. Grieco
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CC: Sandy Genis, Mayor, City of Costa M

From: Adam Zalewski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 8:03 AM
To: SEApplication@cdph.ca.gov; GENIS, SANDRA
Subject: NO Needle Exchange in Costa Mesa

June 20, 2018
To the California Department of Public Health,

I was recently made aware of the pending approval of the OC Needle Exchange Program's (OCNEP) request to your organization to operate a needle exchange program in the City of Costa Mesa, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section [121349](#) et. Seq. I'm disgusted and enraged that a professional organization that exists to protect the public at large would approve this ineffective program as a 'band aid' to a larger systemic issue, vs. dealing with the issue at its core, while also endangering the public at large. Regardless, myself and my fellow community members will fight this as long as we need to, to ensure this program has no home within our beloved Costa Mesa.

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Our community supports various sober living communities and does not want to become a magnet for drug users from other cities, or undermine successful rehab programs locally, let alone put our families and children in harm's way. There are numerous schools located on Monrovia as well. It's irresponsible of the California Department of Public Health to do anything but deny this permit.

As a home owner, community member, and small business owner in Costa Mesa, I'm disgusted with the thought that a program like this could be approved with zero involvement or partnership from our local officials and community. We stand with the Mayor's Office, Costa Mesa Police and Fire Departments, our City's Homeless Outreach Team, and our District Attorney's Office with a firm 'not here'. You'll be hearing from many of my neighbors that live directly within the targeted neighborhood if you haven't already. Please do the right thing. Costa Mesa has a bright future and it does not involve the OCNEP as a black eye among its initiatives for a better tomorrow.

Thank you.

Adam Zalewski
Lighthouse Community (Bridgewater Way)
Costa Mesa

CC: Sandy Genis, Mayor, City of Costa Mesa

From: Rose Cameron [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 8:03 AM
To: GENIS, SANDRA
Subject: Fwd: NO Needle Exchange!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rose Cameron <[REDACTED]>

Subject: NO Needle Exchange!

Date: June 21, 2018 at 8:00:28 AM PDT

To: SEApplication@cdph.ca.gov, sandra.genis@costamesa.gov

June 20, 2018

To the California Department of Public Health,

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Thank you.

Regards,
Rose Cameron
Lighthouse Community (Bridgewater Way)
Costa Mesa

CC: Sandy Genis, Mayor, City of Costa Mesa

From: Zung Nguyen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 3:48 PM
To: GENIS, SANDRA
Subject: Fwd: OCNEP application to provide mobile needle exchange service in Costa Mesa

Hello Sandy,

I'm forwarding you my email to the CA Dept. of Public Health with my comments re the OCNEP application. I appreciate your efforts to inform the community and hope that you voice the strongest objection possible to the CDPH on this matter.

Thank you.

Zung Nguyen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Zung Nguyen [REDACTED] >
Date: Thu, Jun 21, 2018 at 3:35 PM
Subject: OCNEP application to provide mobile needle exchange service in Costa Mesa
To: SEPApplication@cdph.ca.gov

Hello, I am a resident of Costa Mesa within the boundaries of the proposed application for service by OCNEP. I purchased a home and moved into the area within the last year because I deemed it to be a growing area in transition to a fully residential neighborhood. This is a growing residential area with both retiree communities and new residential developments with young families with young children moving in. I can't believe that any organization would think this is an area that needs to have a needle exchange program. The only thing this will do is attract the kinds of drug users who use this type of service, and who do not currently frequent this area as far as I can tell. We will end up with drug users and homeless people hanging around our (currently) safe streets.

Please do not give approval to this application by OCNEP. Thank you.

From: Kelly Oconnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 3:20 PM
To: SEPApplication@cdph.ca.gov; GENIS, SANDRA
Subject: Kelly Oconnell- Katama Bay Drive Costa Mesa

June 22, 2018

To the California Department of Public Health,

I was recently made aware of the pending approval of the OC Needle Exchange Program's (OCNEP) request to your organization to operate a needle exchange program in the City of Costa Mesa, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section [tel:121349](#) et. Seq. I'm deeply disappointed that a professional organization that exists to protect the public at large would approve

this program which has proven to be ineffective in other markets. I believe this “solution” is simply a ‘band aid’ to a larger systemic issue, and I implore your organization to deal with the issue at its core. It is my belief that this needle exchange fails to address the problem and increases the risk of endangering the public at large.

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As a home owner, community member, and small business owner in Costa Mesa, I’m disturbed by the thought that a program like this could be approved with zero involvement or partnership from our local officials and community. We stand with the Mayor’s Office, Costa Mesa Police and Fire Departments, our City’s Homeless Outreach Team, and our District Attorney’s Office with a firm ‘not here’. You’ll be hearing from many of my neighbors that live directly within the targeted neighborhood if you haven’t already. Please do the right thing. Costa Mesa has a bright future and it does not involve the OCNEP as a black eye among its initiatives for a better tomorrow.

Thank you.

Regards,

Kelly O’Connell

CC: Sandy Genis, Mayor, City of Costa Mesa from my iPhone

My name is Anatoly Brohin, business tenant at [REDACTED]. I am categorically against this program being conducted in our neighborhood. If that happens all business around would suffer - customers would stop coming. Besides there is an Elementary school here, so it would be highly inappropriate and even dangerous to have addicts and possibly actual narcotics around.

June 21, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I am the manager of Regal Estates Mobile Home Park at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This is a 94 spaces senior mobile home park. There are other senior mobile home parks as well on Monrovia.

I am very concerned regarding the are you want to put the drop off (18th and Monrovia). There is a primary school on 18th street. This is a residential area also, which I feel would not be a proper location for a dirty needle drop off.

If this program goes thru, you may get better response to putting the drop off location away from residential and school zone areas.

Please let me know if you need further information from me.

Barbara Brandt
Newport Pacific/Regal Estates MHP
Resident Manager

