May 23, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Funding of Care Court in Southern California

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Alhambra City Council, we would like to express our support for your Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court plan. This dynamic approach in assisting persons with mental health and substance abuse disorders is an example of the type of program we believe will help reduce homelessness and increase safety in our community.

Currently, the City of Alhambra operates the Homeless Outreach Mental Evaluation Team ("HOME Team"), a partnership consisting of the Alhambra Police Department, Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (L.A. CADA) and the Department of Mental Health to assist those experiencing homelessness, drug abuse and alcohol abuse. The work done by the HOME Team is phenomenal, however, the incidents listed below are clear examples of the need for funding and programs, such as Care Court, which implements court mandated rehabilitation and/or diversion for mental health and substance abuse issues.

- 2021-22 - Alhambra Police Officers arrested one individual 30 times, all for narcotic violations. Case workers from L.A. CADA provided the subject with rehabilitation and housing services on 24 of these occasions. He accepted services on 4 occasions but absconded on all 4 occasions.

- 2021-22 - Alhambra PD Officers arrested one individual 7 times. L.A. CADA provided the subject with rehabilitation and housing services 64 times. He accepted services on 4 occasions but absconded on all 4 occasions.

On December 7, 2020, then-newly elected Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascon issued nine (9) Special Directives to reform criminal prosecutions. One of these Special Directives, SD 20-07, reforms Misdemeanor Case Management within the County of Los Angeles. In summary, thirteen (13) identified misdemeanor crimes shall be declined or dismissed before arraignment and without conditions under SD 20-07.
This also applies to the above-mentioned examples in that all the highlighted arrests made by Alhambra Police Officers were not filed by the District Attorney’s Office pursuant to SD 20-07.

Cities across Southern California, such as the City of Fontana, have been discussing the benefits of CARE Court to help solve chronic homelessness and addressing mental health issues. Moving forward, the Alhambra City Council is interested in participating in the programming and implementation of Care Court in Southern California. We look forward to additional information and working with your administration to assist in any way possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact Deputy City Manager, Randi Stover, at rstover@cityofalhambra.org or (626) 570-3256.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alhambra City Council

Jeffrey K. Maloney, Mayor
Adele Andrade-Stadler, Vice Mayor

Katherine Lee, Council Member

Ross Maza, Council Member
Sasha Renée Pérez, Council Member