

County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Executive

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MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Oct. 4, 2017

Contact:

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Tour of Pilot Program for Mission Street Sobering Center

Santa Clara County Provides a Safe Center for Intoxicated Individuals to Sober-Up and Access Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment

WHAT:

The County of Santa Clara will host a media availability and tour of the Mission Street Sobering Center. The Sobering Center is a partnership between the County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Services Department, and Horizon Services, Inc. This pilot program will assist the partner organizations in learning how a larger scale operation might work in practice. Representatives from these organizations will lead the tour and be available for interviews.

Horizon Services Inc., a drug and alcohol prevention, treatment and recovery provider, will operate the Sobering Center at the Santa Clara County Reentry Resource Center, 151 West Mission Street in San Jose. A space in the Reentry Center will be dedicated for Sobering Center operations. Law enforcement from the County of Santa Clara Sheriff's Office and the City of Campbell will deliver non-violent individuals to the Sobering Center, following screening, assessment and communication with Sobering Center staff.

WHO:

Supervisor Dave Cortese, President, County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors
Toni Tullys, Director, Behavioral Health Services, Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System
Mark Cloutier, Executive Director, Horizon Services, Inc.
Javier Aguirre, Director, Office of Reentry Services
Law Enforcement

WHEN:

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017, 2:00 p.m. (media tour)

WHERE:

Santa Clara County Reentry Resource Center
151 W. Mission Street, San Jose, CA 95110 (adjacent to the County Government Center)
Press Parking: parking spaces available in front of Reentry Center

WHY:

A large percentage of publicly inebriated individuals are homeless or mentally ill and end up in jails or emergency departments where they cannot access the substance use and mental health treatment that they may need. The Sobering Center will provide for their immediate sobering needs as well as connect them to longer-term treatment and mental health services if warranted.

The County considers this approach better for the residents who it will serve directly, as well as for the community as a whole. Emergency Departments and paramedics will have more resources for true medical emergencies and law enforcement will have more time on patrol to address public safety.

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