



## **Answering the Governor's Call to Urgently Address Homeless Encampments while Respecting the Dignity and Safety of People Experiencing Homelessness**

Today, Governor Newsom issued an executive order directing state agencies to urgently address homeless encampments while respecting the dignity and safety of people experiencing homelessness, and it urges local governments to use substantial funding provided by the state to take similar action.

Since elected, I have advocated for the City to do more to regulate the time, place, and manner of encampments in Long Beach. We need to find a better balance between having compassion and protecting people experiencing homelessness while preserving our public spaces to be used by everyone.

While Long Beach's current protocol follows much of the executive order's recommendations, I think we need to do more. We need to focus on having community input from our residents in this discussion and develop a protocol that answers the Governor's call to urgently address homeless encampments while respecting the dignity and safety of people experiencing homelessness.

An updated Homeless Encampment and Public Spaces Protocol will be released in the following weeks after the recent decision of *Grants Pass v. Johnson*. It is important to allow the City time to review the court ruling and its impact on Long Beach.

There will be more to come on this topic, and I look forward to engaging in this discussion with all our communities.

**Kristina Duggan**

Councilmember | District 3