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PRESS RELEASE

County Supervisor Armendarez Takes Firm Stance to Protect Families and Children Against the Release of Sexually Violent Predators into San Bernardino County

San Bernardino County, California - San Bernardino County Supervisor Jesse Armendarez, alongside the Board of Supervisors, unanimously adopted Resolution 2023-126 during its Board of Supervisors meeting on July 11, 2023, formally opposing the release of out-of-county sexually violent predators by courts and agencies into San Bernardino County.

County Supervisor Armendarez stated, "Ensuring our families have safe neighborhoods is my top priority. Protecting families and children from sexually violent predators is common sense." Armendarez added, "I will make sure the message is loud and clear that they are not welcome here."

According to the Department of State Hospitals (DSH), housing searches are conducted by the state contractor, Liberty Healthcare, which also treats and monitors all predators under the DSH's Conditional Release Program (CONREP). There continues to be a lack of housing availability for the DSH Housing Committee and Liberty Healthcare to agree on which has led to discussions of releasing sexually violent predators on transient status and tracked via GPS.

One June 26, 2023, the California Joint Legislative Audit Committee unanimously approved a request by Senator Brian Jones (R-San Diego) to audit the contract with Liberty Healthcare which has continued to manage the exclusive contract since 2003.

In a statement regarding the recently approved audit of the Sexually Violent Predator CONREP program, County Supervisor Armendarez added "It's time the state takes a deep dive into how unresponsive Liberty Healthcare and the California Department of State Hospitals are to families and parents that live within neighborhoods that are being identified as potential residential placements. We deserve accountability."

Following the approval by the Board of Supervisors, County Counsel will coordinate with the District Attorney to share and communicate the formal action to appropriate agencies and officials.

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