

The People are the City



Mayor
CRAIG S. GREEN

Mayor Pro Tem
CHAD P. WANKE

Councilmembers:
RHONDA SHADER
WARD L. SMITH
JEREMY B. YAMAGUCHI

City Clerk:
ROBERT S. MCKINNELL

City Treasurer
KEVIN A. LARSON

City Administrator
DAMIEN R. ARRULA

401 East Chapman Avenue – Placentia, California 92870

December 19, 2020

State Court of Appeals
Fourth District, Division 3
601 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

SUBJECT: LETTER IN SUPPORT OF APPEAL (BARNES V. CAMPBELL)

On behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Placentia, I write in support of the appeal to the December 11, 2020 ruling by Orange County Superior Court Judge Peter Wilson in *Barnes v. Campbell*.

It is of grave concern to the City of Placentia and its law abiding citizens that over 1,000 inmates of the Orange County Jail system may be released, due to COVID-19 concerns. While COVID-19 is a health concern that impacts all of us, it should not be used as an excuse to free dangerous criminals. I understand that some of the charges of inmates include murder, rape, child molestation, kidnapping and domestic violence. The unmitigated risk and early release of these inmates into our community is unprecedented and will clearly have an adverse impact on the health and well-being of our residents and businesses, not to mention the incredible stresses and strains to our public safety personnel.

Over the past several months, the Orange County Sheriff Department (OCSD) has consistently demonstrated good judgement and appropriate Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended accommodations to ensure that all inmates are protected from exposure to COVID-19. Included in these efforts are regular testing of inmates, virtually conducted hearings, and implementation of strict PPE regulations. In addition, it has come to my attention that Sheriff Barnes has already released over 1,000 low level offenders due to COVID-19 concerns. The OCSD has clearly demonstrated true leadership when it comes to protecting those under its charge, as well as the community-at-large.

Should these dangerous and violent criminals be released from County Jail, I am genuinely concerned for the safety of our community. In addition, COVID-19 has already impacted our first responder services and the release of these criminals will only exacerbate the challenges we face in responding to our citizenry. Therefore, as the Mayor of the City of Placentia and on behalf of our City Council, I implore you to reconsider the decision made in *Campbell v. Don Barnes*.

As a former United States Navy Lieutenant and Vietnam Veteran, I recognize the importance of protecting as many lives as possible, however we must not discount the number one priority of protecting Orange County residents and businesses from violent and criminal activity, which is bound to occur if this case isn't appropriately reconsidered. I thank you for your prompt time and positive attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Green', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig S. Green
Mayor
City of Placentia