



# City of Clearlake

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## **PRESS RELEASE** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Greg Folsom, City Manager, 707-994-8201

### **No Trespassing, No Unauthorized Camping Ordinances Being Enforced**

**Clearlake, CA – April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

On Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> the Clearlake Police Department began enforcing the Notice to Vacate the properties surrounding the former Ray's Market. After months of warnings to individuals who were trespassing and camping in the area without authorization, the City increased the enforcement level a few weeks ago by issuing citations to those individuals, as well as booklets with information about the resources available throughout the county for individuals in need. On Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> a 72-hour Notice to Vacate the properties was issued to every individual on the properties and was posted at every encampment.

On Friday morning officers, city staff, county Public Health staff, and volunteers had a safety briefing by Fire Chief Willie Sapeta and Acting Police Chief Tim Celli. Officers arrested 6 individuals for trespassing and unauthorized camping. There were approximately 8 very elaborate camping areas that were hidden or partially hidden in the brush using wire, branches, metal, stolen shopping carts, and wooden pallets as fencing. Evidence workers photographed and catalogued the belongings at each location and Public Works staff and Code Enforcement staff removed the personal property to a secure location. Owners of the belongings can recover their personal property within 30 days from City Hall. After 30 days the property will be taken to the landfill.

Staff and volunteers worked both Friday and Saturday removing personal property and garbage from the properties. By the end of the day on Saturday, four 30-yard dumpsters full of garbage were removed from the property by volunteers and city staff. Well over 100 shopping carts were recovered and either returned to their owners or, in the case of the Ray's carts, sent to salvage with the retailer's permission. Three encampments were still standing by the end of Saturday and city personnel returned on Monday to remove the remaining encampments.

Acting Police Chief, Tim Celli, stated "The Police Department is committed to working with business owners and property owners to help reduce crime and improve business conditions in

the City of Clearlake. We have had several meetings with Burns Valley Mall businesses that have resulted in improvements and this current operation is sure to bring improvements to the Clearlake Shopping Center.”

According to City Manager, Greg Folsom, “Helping the businesses in our area to be successful and attracting new businesses to town are two of the top goals of the City Council and my staff. However, we are mindful that there is a vulnerable population out there that needs help also, and the Council and I are working with various other groups to identify possible programs that could be adopted locally to assist in transitioning out of homelessness.”

The City of Clearlake is participating in the upcoming Innovation Summit that will be discussing realistic innovations and best practices from other communities dealing with similar issues. Mayor Russ Perdock and Acting Chief of Police Tim Celli will be part of a panel discussion focused on a local initiative targeting high utilizers of public services. The Innovation Summit will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Marymount California University from 8am to 2:30pm.



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