VICENTE SARMIENTO



ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

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June 26, 2025

Judge David J. Hesseltine Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Orange 700 Civic Center Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: MOTIONS FOR DISSOLUTION OF THE ORDERS FOR PERMANENT INJUNCTIONS AGAINST UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS

Case No.: 06CC10916 Case No.: 30-2008-00107172 Case No.: 30-2012-00599218 Case No.: 30-2009-00118739

Case No.: 30-2010-00363220

Honorable Judge Hesseltine,

I represent the Second District on the Orange County Board of Supervisors, which includes all the residents of the City of Santa Ana, and portions of the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Orange, and Tustin.

As the representative of the residents most affected by the injunctions in question, I am writing to support the dissolution of these injunctions.

These injunctions have been in place for far too long, some for more than a decade, with no evidence that they reduced crime or even deterred the nuisance conduct sought to be prevented when they were originally granted.

The permanent injunctions targeted individuals in various geographic areas, including a large number of "John Does," and are used to restrain activities that are not, on their own, criminal conduct. These injunctions restrain the rights of individuals to associate freely with others. It not only restricts the rights of named defendants, but also of all community members that law enforcement may deem are part of the class, based solely on their appearance or speech.

Not only do the injunctions bring potential criminal consequences to behavior that is not in and of itself criminal, but they also sacrifice the rights of individuals to assemble, to move freely in their community and the right to associate with anyone they choose. These injunctions restrict the rights of primarily low-income communities and people of color. They invite racial profiling and the harassment of community members by law enforcement when no criminal conduct is occurring or even reasonably suspected.

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Broad restrictions on the rights of individuals, rights guaranteed to all people by the constitution, should receive the highest scrutiny, whether they impinge on rights in a criminal or civil context. The use of injunctions places an unnecessary restriction on the rights of entire communities and classes of people and allows dangerous, broad interpretation and abuse. The injunctions have created a tool for agencies to skirt the higher burden of proof required in criminal cases and have opened the door to harassment and abuse based on race, ethnicity, and income level.

The injunctions have harmed our communities and restricted the rights of our residents for far too long. They are causing continuous harm to the rights of targeted individuals and communities. They are unnecessary, especially given the fact that the criminal conduct alleged when the injunctions were granted is often conduct already prohibited by criminal statute.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Court to grant the dissolution of the injunctions and stop the harm to the rights of these communities and individuals.

Sincerely,

Vicente Sarmiento

Supervisor, Second District

Orange County Board of Supervisors