



CITY OF BALDWIN PARK PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON SAN GABRIEL VALLEY TRIBUNE ARTICLE INVOLVING LOCAL BUSINESSMAN AND COUNCILMAN PACHECO

Baldwin Park, Calif. (Monday December 9, 2019), **Baldwin Park, Calif.** In response to the article “Baldwin Park businessman sues city over fines.....” published by the San Gabriel Valley Tribune on Friday December 6, 2019, the City of Baldwin Park would like to issue the following statement:

“The City of Baldwin Park is following the rule of law when it comes to banners displayed by local businesses. As with all other Cities in California, Baldwin Park regulates signage and banners to beautify and prevent signage pollution by restricting the size, location and duration. The City however, does not regulate the content of banners in accordance with the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution. A previous lawsuit regarding the same issue yielded changes in the ordinance in which businesses must comply with the City code and obtain a permit in order to display banners at their location of business.

Baldwin Park City Ord. Title I, General Provisions Ch. 10 section 10.99 sets forth a fee schedule which is deemed constitutional and utilized when residents and businesses are not in compliance. The fees are to cover administrative costs for the issuance of banner permits. Fines are utilized when residents and businesses are not in compliance with City codes including illegal banners and such violations as neglected property maintenance or parking on lawns.

In the case of Mr. Robert Ehler, the business owner has failed to follow the law and was therefore issued citations beginning April of 2019, which over time has allowed for the accrual of fines. Mr. Ehler was repeatedly asked to obtain a permit for a banner with legal dimensions and pay a fee for the use of this banner. Until today, Mr. Ehler

continues to refuse to obtain proper permits and or pay his fines. He has ignored all communication from the City.

Regarding the court settlement of former Police Chief Lili Hadsell, the case is currently under appeal by the City of Baldwin Park and there has been no settlement award given to Ms. Hadsell.

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