June 30, 2020

Norco Residents:

Yesterday, June 29, a planned peaceful demonstration held in Norco was met by counter-protesters and resulted in disheartening confrontations that deteriorated into hostility and violence toward the protesters. As an organization, the City of Norco does not condone these actions and denounces the offensive behavior of some of the counter-protesters. Norco residents have had widely divergent reactions to the outpouring of grief, anger and demand for change by the Black Lives Matter movement that has recently swept the nation. While individuals in our community are entitled to their First Amendment rights to peacefully assemble and express their views, the violent behavior exhibited yesterday does not in any way represent the values of our organization.

The City of Norco remains unified in its commitment to inclusion, equality and justice, and does not tolerate acts of racism, oppression, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or violence toward any groups or individuals. The City of Norco is honored to be protected by the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department, who displayed great professionalism in their planning and deployment to ensure that the safety and rights of all attendees were protected. The Norco Sheriff’s Office is actively investigating the reported incidents that occurred at yesterday’s protest and will publish the results of the investigation in a future press release. Information can be reported by calling (951) 270-5673 or visiting the CrimeTips portal at www.riversidesheriff.org.

Norco is a vibrant community where residents love to live, businesses are proud to operate and visitors are welcome. The images displayed yesterday do not reflect the level of respect Norconians typically extend to their neighbors. As a local government organization, the City of Norco does not hold any political points of view and is committed to building a community of inclusiveness by continuing to serve, assist and protect all residents equally.

For more information, contact the City Manager’s Office at (951) 270-5623 or info@ci.norco.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Andy Okoro
City Manager

Lt. Andrew Elia
Riverside County Sheriff’s Department