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To:

San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office
303 West 3rd Street, 4th Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0502
Attn: Deputy District Attorney Maureen O'Connell

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
655 East Third Street
San Bernardino, California 92415-0061
Attn: Sheriff John McMahan

Homestead Valley Community Council Supports The San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office and The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in their opposition to Lawtis Rhoden, a sexually violent predator, being ordered to live in Twentynine Palms.


The Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) was formed in 1996 to address all matters affecting the Morongo Basin unincorporated communities of Yucca Mesa, Flamingo Heights, Landers, and Johnson Valley. It is comprised of delegates appointed through the community associations of each of these member communities. We work with local, county, state, and federal lawmakers and officials.

Recently HVCC learned an Orange County court is proposing to relocate Lawtis Rhoden to the Morongo Basin community of Twentynine Palms. Lawtis Rhoden, 71, has been convicted of multiple child rapes since 1969. Rhoden is clearly a dangerous sexual predator. This is the second time in less than two years a judge has ordered a dangerous sexual predator be relocated to the Morongo Basin.

This letter is to serve as an unequivocal statement that Homestead Valley Community Council strongly supports the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in their efforts to oppose and stop this relocation plan. The safety of the residents of the Morongo Basin, especially the children of our community who are most vulnerable to violent sexual predators like Rhoden, must take priority over any considerations for Rhoden. We stand ready to assist the San Bernardino County D.A.'s office and Sheriff's Department in any way necessary to help them in their endeavors to stop this relocation plan.

Sincerely,

James Harvey

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Harvey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

President, Homestead Valley Community Council
(On behalf of HVCC)