



Rancho Simi

RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT CONDEMNS ASSAULT

The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District is deeply saddened at the recent actions of a group of individuals who assaulted two Park District employees at Berylwood Park on February 18, 2021.

Park District Board Chair Brian Dennert expressed his serious concern, stating, “The Park District condemns these horrible acts of violence and intimidation against the dedicated employees which were both unprovoked and shocking. We are appalled by this behavior. While the investigation is ongoing, it appears that the incident involved a small group of troublemakers that are not vested in the use of the Skate Plaza. The strong majority of our community who visit Berylwood Park and use the Skate Plaza are respectful, follow the rules and peacefully use the park. It is unfortunate that this group of individuals have chosen to impact the community, the neighborhood and our employees in this heinous fashion. The Park District is committed to ensuring the safety of our parks and we have no tolerance for violence in our District. We appreciate members of the community that have provided information to law enforcement.”

The two District employees involved in the incident, ages 64 and 69, are both Maintenance Workers with a combined 6 years of experience with the District. One of them was recently honored for his dedicated service to the District. Both employees are doing well, and are at home recovering from the incident.

District Manager Dan Paranick stated “We extend our deepest condolences to our employees who suffered at the hands of the individuals who committed the acts of violence. The Simi Valley Police Department is working closely with the District to hold the perpetrators of these horrible acts accountable to the fullest extent of the law. We have received expressions of disbelief at the behavior of these individuals, and appreciate the outpouring of support for our employees from the community.”

In response to the event, the District has substantially increased its security measures at the location, including enhanced on-site law enforcement presence, additional lighting, new park hours, and other hardscape changes to ensure the safety of those using the park to the greatest extent possible. The District will also continue to actively communicate with the neighborhood and those using the park to gather input to ensure long-term measures are in place for the safety of the park, the Skate Plaza, the neighborhood, and those that are peacefully and responsibly enjoying it.

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