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PRESS RELEASE

HOME VISITS FOR SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM TO BEGIN MARCH 27TH

Downey, CA, March 27, 2020:

Beginning Friday, March 27th, the City's Parks and Recreation Staff is augmenting its services and performing home visits as part of the City's recently launched Senior Wellness Check Program. Over the last week, Recreation staff have been reaching out to seniors who are registered in the Senior Congregate Meal Program to inquire on their well being and offer any services they may need during this time.

Seniors who have been unresponsive and have not returned phone calls will begin receiving home visits from official City staff starting Friday, March 27th. City staff will be dressed in City uniforms and will be arriving in City vehicles; the goal is to avoid implication of scams and distrust. Staff will first knock on doors, announce who they are and if there is no answer, they will leave a flyer informing seniors of the outreach. Staff will then attempt to make contact with neighbors to inquire about the seniors' well being. If there is no response back from a specific senior within 48 hours, the Downey Police Department will then be contacted to do a welfare check.

Parks and Recreation staff will be conducting wellness checks Monday through Friday during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"Our primary intention with this program is to ensure that our seniors are doing well and have what they need during this difficult time," said Mayor Blanca Pacheco. "We care deeply about our senior population and we want to make sure they know the City is here for them."

Mayor Pro Tem Claudia M. Frometa added, "We understand that our senior population is at greater risk and may have limited resources. The importance of their health is paramount and we take pride in establishing a relationship that is built on trust, compassion and outreach."

Seniors interested in registering for this program can contact the City's Parks and Recreation Department at (562) 904-7238.

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