



## PRESS RELEASE

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### City of Hemet Announces Trash Enclosure Pilot Program Launching January 11

**Hemet, Calif.**—The City of Hemet is launching its Trash Enclosure Pilot Program, an initiative to transform the urban landscape, addressing the longstanding issue of unsecured trash bins in commercial areas. Approved at the City Council Meeting on October 10, 2023, this program is part of the City's comprehensive strategy to improve community aesthetics, enhance environmental sustainability, and promote public health.

Set to roll out on Thursday, January 11, 2024, the key aspects of the program include:

1. **Modern Trash Enclosures:** With a budget of \$500,000, funded through City appropriations, the program will assist commercial properties in building modern, vandal-proof trash enclosures. These structures will be designed to accommodate refuse and recycling bins, featuring locking doors and roofs to deter vandalism.
2. **Fee Waivers and Financial Incentives:** To encourage widespread participation, the City Council has approved the waiver of application and processing fees for the program. Additionally, grant awards will reimburse eligible applicants up to \$20,000 for constructing the enclosures.
3. **Strategic Amendments to Municipal Code:** The City is also ensuring long-term compliance and sustainability by preparing amendments to the Hemet Municipal Code. These changes will facilitate the conversion of parking spaces when necessary to accommodate trash enclosures and mandate city-wide compliance with commercial and industrial refuse requirements within two years.

The Trash Enclosure Pilot Program is not just an infrastructural update; it's part of Hemet's broader Safe and Clean Streets Initiative. This initiative reflects the City's commitment to enhancing quality of life by making Hemet safer, cleaner, and more attractive for residents, businesses, and visitors.

We're addressing a critical need while setting a precedent for the City's urban beautification," City Manager Mark Prestwich states. "This program is a testament to Hemet's dedication to environmental stewardship and is designed to position the city for additional investment.

Commercial property owners along key corridors such as Florida Avenue, Stetson Avenue, State Street, and San Jacinto Avenue are encouraged to participate. The program's

structured application process ensures a fair and effective allocation of resources, emphasizing high-priority areas.

For more information on the program and how to apply, please visit [hemetca.gov/TrashEnclosureProgram](http://hemetca.gov/TrashEnclosureProgram) or contact Community Development Director Monique Alaniz-Flejter at [mflejter@hemetca.gov](mailto:mflejter@hemetca.gov)