

In response to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson, Ventura County Law Enforcement will continue to approach homelessness and related issues through a multifaceted strategy. Emphasizing collaborative and supportive methods, we will maintain partnerships with social services, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with essential resources and support.

This recent court decision restores a tool for law enforcement when handling homeless encampments. Increasing law enforcement's ability to make arrests, when appropriate and necessary, expands our options when responding to or proactively engaging with concerns involving our homeless populations. Ventura County law enforcement will evaluate the need for arrest on a case-by-case basis, understanding that each situation presents its unique set of circumstances.

While other jurisdictions may face different challenges regarding homelessness, Ventura County has found it important to focus not only on illegal behavior but also on the causes of such behavior and the individual's ability and willingness to receive assistance. Enforcement and arrests are sometimes necessary, but connecting individuals with housing, healthcare, and other support services can often be a more constructive approach. Local law enforcement agencies will always respond swiftly to criminal activity while considering contemporary and emerging practices for addressing the complex societal issue of homelessness.

By taking this flexible approach and working closely with our county and city leaders, along with community partners, we aim to achieve successful outcomes for our unhoused population while improving livability and safety in our communities.