



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

June 4, 2020

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To the Citizens and Businesses of Solvang:

Members of our community have been expressing concern about tomorrow's (Friday, June 5, 2020) scheduled assembly in Solvang Park. The peaceful vigil, as the organizers have stated, is set for 5:00 PM. They have asked that all participants wear face coverings, bring signs, and follow all social distancing orders. At this time, we have no credible information about outside parties joining tomorrow's vigil.

I would like to assure you that I have discussed this vigil with Solvang's Chief of Police, Jeff Greene, and our City Manager, and we want you to know that we are aware of the peaceful assembly's messaging on social media and elsewhere and are keeping an eye on the situation. The City of Solvang is well-prepared to address any issues which might arise out of tomorrow's vigil, but we also trust in the local organizers to keep things peaceful, and in our police officers to allow for this assembly and to respect the First Amendment rights of the participants. Please, let our police officers handle safety surrounding this assembly. Do not attempt to take matters into your own hands.

As I type, Chief of Police Jeff Greene has informed me that today's peaceful gathering in Buellton was a locals-only assembly, and that all went smoothly without any incidents. We expect much of the same, for tomorrow's Solvang assembly.

The safety of our community members and our Solvang businesses continues to be our highest priority. Community members with any helpful information about tomorrow's vigil, or who have questions about the event, may call the Solvang Sheriff Station at (805) 686-5000. Department personnel will evaluate the communications and follow up, as appropriate.

Please respect each other and stay safe.

Solvang Mayor Ryan Toussaint