



## CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL

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### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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### **CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL ADVISES “AMTRAK MOONERS” TO STAY AWAY THIS YEAR *Road Construction, Parking Restrictions, DUI Patrols, and Strict Law Enforcement Begins Now***

LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA – June 29, 2009 – The Orange County Sherriff’s Department has begun to take steps to discourage attendance at the annual mooning Amtrak event in Laguna Niguel expected to occur Saturday July 11. According to Andy Ferguson, Chief of Police Services for the City of Laguna Niguel, “We are taking a zero tolerance approach to any violation of city codes, particularly public drinking or intoxication and public nudity. Law enforcement has already started to increase patrols in the area, and we hope that most people will realize that this unsanctioned mooning event is over. We cannot allow a situation where public safety and our local businesses are threatened. That kind of environment is simply unacceptable to the city.”

In April, the Laguna Niguel City Council unanimously approved stricter ordinances to curb some of the more egregious behaviors associated with the event, specifically public drinking, nudity and urination. There are also prohibitions on street vendors, tents, and loitering. Restrictions and prohibitions will be in place on Camino Capistrano from Thursday July 9 through Sunday July 12. Violators will be towed. Unlicensed vendors and solicitors will not be allowed. A Sheriff’s command post will be established at the Laguna Niguel Metro Link parking lot and no event parking will be allowed at that location. A field booking station will also be available for any arrests. From there, increased police coverage will be coordinated including patrol cars, mounted patrols, bicycle and foot patrol. Codes will be enforced by Agents from California’s Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). In addition to the law enforcement presence, construction will be continuing on the Avery Parkway interchange, making it difficult to enter the area from the freeway.

In recent years, crowds of up to 10,000 people required the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, with assistance from law enforcement officers from neighboring cities to disperse the crowd after complaints were received regarding public nudity, intoxication and general unruliness. The event has no sponsor, no organization, no permits, no insurance and no public facilities to accommodate such large crowds. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic was so dense in some areas, that Deputy Sheriff’s could not safely patrol and emergency vehicles could not safely enter or exit the area. Surrounding businesses were negatively affected by the large crowd and many said their customers could not reach their place of business the day prior to and the day of the event.

“If you’ve come to the event in the past, and are thinking about attending again this year, you will want to think twice,” warned Ferguson. “There is a small bar in the area that will only accommodate 49 patrons, once that is full there will be no overflow allowed outside, no alcohol outside, no public nudity, no parking, no camping, no RV’s – hopefully people will get the idea that the event is not going to be what it once was and they will find other things to do that day.”

For the most current information regarding law enforcement activities and parking restrictions on Camino Capistrano between follow us on Twitter: @LagunaNiguelCA or become a fan of the City of Laguna Niguel on Facebook.

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