



**VICE CHAIRMAN ANDREW DO, FIRST DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR LISA BARTLETT, FIFTH DISTRICT**

PRESS RELEASE

**VICE CHAIRMAN ANDREW DO AND
SUPERVISOR LISA BARTLETT PARTNER TO CREATE
OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY, CA (September 30, 2020) –To enhance mental health and support suicide prevention efforts, and in recognition of National Suicide Prevention Month, Vice Chairman Andrew Do and Supervisor Lisa Bartlett have partnered to create the first ever Orange County Office of Suicide Prevention.

“Orange County has been battling an upward trend in suicides for years,” said Vice Chairman Andrew Do, First District Supervisor. “COVID-19 has only exacerbated the root causes of suicides, like mental illness and substance abuse. The Office of Suicide Prevention will be yet another avenue of support for people in need, alongside our new regional Wellness Hubs where residents can access mental health services regardless of insurance.”

The Office of Suicide Prevention will collaborate with [Mind OC](#) to bolster the [Community Suicide Prevention Initiative \(CSPI\)](#), which was approved by the Board in March of 2019, and will be responsible for integrating new and existing services and support throughout the entire County.

“With the onset of COVID-19, this year has been extremely stressful and emotional for many people, especially those already struggling with mental health issues,” said Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District. “Now, more than ever, people who are having a hard time coping and may be contemplating suicide, need that additional support to get them through this difficult time,” she continued. The Office of Suicide Prevention, together with the new BeWellOC campus opening later this year, will provide critical components to the holistic system of care for mental and behavioral health,” she said.

The [item](#) will come before the Board on Tuesday, October 6, for review and consideration.

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Orange County Vice Chairman [Andrew Do](#) represents the *First District* communities of Santa Ana, Garden Grove, Westminster, Fountain Valley, and Midway City. One of the first officials in the state to [propose a face-covering mandate](#), Supervisor Andrew Do is advocating for science-based COVID-19 policies. In addition to health and safety-based COVID-19 response planning, Vice Chairman Do has reformed [Orange County's mental health services](#), expanded access to [health care](#), and led efforts to combat [homelessness](#).

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett represents the Fifth Supervisorial District which includes the cities of Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Irvine (portion of), Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, as well as the unincorporated communities of Coto de Caza, Emerald Bay, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, Rancho Mission Viejo, Stonecliffe and Wagon Wheel