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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Conversion of the Laguna Hills Inn (formerly Comfort Inn) to a Temporary COVID-19 Facility**

**LAGUNA HILLS, CA –**

The City of Laguna Hills yesterday filed suit against the County of Orange and the Laguna Hills Inn, seeking to halt the conversion of that 76-room hotel to a shelter for COVID-19 infected transients. The case was accepted for filing by the court on April 14, 2020 and a hearing on requested temporary restraining orders is set for Thursday April 16, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. The hearing will be conducted telephonically before a judge not yet announced. Joining with the City as co-plaintiffs are the owners of four buildings adjacent to the hotel, who are also seeking the proposed shelter conversion to be declared a nuisance and barred.

City Manager Don White commented “This suit was filed to try to protect our small city from a major importation of COVID-19 infection. Laguna Hills has had only 13 reported cases of COVID-19, and this would increase that number by at least 600%.”

Mayor Janine Heft said “Our City took this extreme action because we have been put in an extreme position by this project. It is horrifying to propose to place a substantial number of COVID-19 patients in the Laguna Hills and Laguna Woods vicinity, where there are over 20,000 of the persons most at risk - seniors. We could not stand by and watch this happen.”

The City and the property owners are represented by Daniel Nordberg and Kelly G. Richardson of Richardson Ober DeNichilo, a firm with offices in Irvine and Pasadena.

For more information, including a copy of the complaint, visit the City’s web site at [www.lagunahillsca.gov](http://www.lagunahillsca.gov).