



NEWS RELEASE

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL RESOLVED, CITY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A NEW DESIGN

Following a year-long dispute, the City reaches a settlement and will proceed with a Veteran's Memorial for the Diamond Stadium.

LAKE ELSINORE – (April 22, 2014) – The City Council announced today that a settlement has been reached in the Veteran's Memorial case.

In November 2012, the City Council approved a Veteran's Memorial to be installed at the Diamond Stadium. However, in May 2013, the memorial was halted when the American Humanist Association (AHA) filed suit against the City of Lake Elsinore challenging the design. In February, the court ruled against the Veteran's Memorial design. This week, the City and the AHA reached an agreement to move forward and resolve the issue.

"While the court's decision is disappointing to myself and my colleagues, we must do what is best for our City and the community overall. This memorial has always been about recognizing the men and women who bravely served to protect our country and our freedoms," said Mayor Natasha Johnson. "By moving forward and settling this matter, we can refocus on this goal and design a memorial that we can all be proud of."

Following the ruling against the monument, the AHA sought recovery for its attorney fees in excess of \$223,000. The City Council met in closed session Friday, April 18, 2014 to discuss resolution. Today, the parties finalized a settlement. The City agreed to waive its right to appeal and AHA agreed to reduce its attorney fees by more than 10 percent to \$200,000. The City did not incur direct costs associated with its defense in the case, which was handled pro bono by special counsel Pacific Justice Institute.

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About the [City of Lake Elsinore](http://www.Lake-Elsinore.org): *The City of Lake Elsinore, known as the Action Sports Capital of the World, features Southern California's largest natural freshwater lake. It is the second oldest and fastest growing city in Riverside County, celebrating its 126th Year of Incorporation on April 9. The City's current population is estimated at approximately 55,430. The City's brand and slogan, "Dream Extreme," exemplify the scenic beauty and active lifestyle of this 126-year old boomtown. Visitors and residents enjoy water sports such as skiing, power boating and fishing, a world-class sky diving drop zone, a regional motocross track, professional baseball, an 18-hole golf course, outlet shops, plus dining and entertainment in Historic Downtown. Visit www.Lake-Elsinore.org for more information*