



NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: OCFA Explains “No Limits Learning Center” Requirements

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Placentia, CA – The City of Placentia and the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) have been working diligently to find a solution to allow the owner of the “No Limits Learning Center” to open as a new business, which is an adult day care/educational center for special needs adults located at 300 East Orangethorpe in Placentia.

In her initial application to the City for a permit, Ms. Laughlin described her business as an adult learning center. Based on that description the Placentia Building Department determined the facility to be an educational occupancy per the California Building Code. The City's Planning Commission subsequently approved a Use Permit for the facility contingent on the review and approval of other agencies, including OCFA and Community Care Licensing, a division of the California Department of Social Services. During Ms. Laughlin's process of obtaining a “Fire Clearance Request” through Community Care Licensing, OCFA determined that the facility did not qualify as an educational occupancy and should appropriately be designated an institutional occupancy under state law. The City of Placentia and OCFA staffs have met with all the involved agencies and each have agreed that the “No Limits Learning Center” should be classified as an institutional occupancy. Institutional occupancies require fire sprinklers and the building that Ms. Laughlin has leased for her business currently does not have fire sprinklers.

“While OCFA fire prevention and Placentia city staff are sensitive to Ms. Laughlin needs, the safety of this vulnerable segment of society must come first,” said Division Chief Kris Concepcion. “The City of Placentia and OCFA are committed to working with Ms. Laughlin to find a suitable solution under the law that will allow her to open her business,” the chief added. Placentia Mayor Pro-Tem and OCFA Board Director Joe Aguirre added that, “We look forward to having the ‘No Limits Learning Center’ as a successful business here in Placentia but we also have to ensure that any business that opens in our community is not only in compliance with all applicable codes, but is as safe as possible for the people that use it. I will make sure all parties involved continue to work diligently toward a suitable solution.”

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For more information, call (714) 483-0194 or kellyzimmerman@ocfa.org

The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.7 million residents in 23 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.