



March 10, 2023

Ms. Samantha Taitano
Chairperson
Board of Directors
Guam Homeless Coalition

Subject: GHC March 9, 2023 Open Letter to Public

Hafa Adai Ms. Taitano:

We received your “open letter” to the public dated March 10, 2023. I address you *directly* herein, and invite you to communicate directly with myself and the Joint Homeless Relocation Initiative team. Because you were present at our February 24, 2023, 11:00 a.m. news conference to release information on our Homeless Relocation Initiative, you are aware that it is comprised of (i) the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, (ii) the Mayors’ Council of Guam and (iii) this elected AG’s office.

Your letter unfairly mischaracterizes key facts and disparages the Gov’s. Administration and the Mayors Council as well as my staff. That includes that anyone was actually “evicted,” and that our operation lacked “cooperation.” In fact, everyone at the encampments voluntarily left & were helped to relocate from the 2 sites. Because of the procedures adopted before the Operation began, *joint social service providers* from our Office and from Mayor Savares and Vice-Mayor Benavente, including Mayor Savares herself, personally visited the encampments to offer help to the homeless. The Administration’s cabinet also provided critical pre-operation support services.

On Thursday, March 2, 2023 the Operation began with no fewer than 8 government departments and agencies gathering in the Mall Parking lot by 8:30 a.m., in cooperation with the Mall’s management. Govt. depts. also gathered at the Dededo Coop to receive and process the homeless with an air conditioned bus provided by GRTA. **Notably, neither you nor your “Guam Homeless Coalition” were present at the sites, nor to my knowledge showed any interest in helping.** It was Mr. Rob San Agustin from the Gov’s. Homelessness Assistance & Poverty Prevention Office that actually helped the homeless obtain “bridge” housing. Further, your organization was not present at the coop to talk to and help the homeless persons being bused there.

Office of the Attorney General
Douglas B. Moylan · Attorney General of Guam

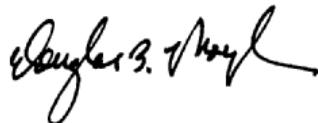
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“Guam’s Toughest Law Enforcers”

The tenor of your public letter conflicts with your charter, and your designation as the “*Guam Homeless Coalition*.” Our joint team *not only* planned to relocate the homeless, but more importantly provided to them both taxpayer-funded and private services critical and immediate assistance. As the Lt. Gov. made clear at the news conference with you present, “*wrap around services*” were going to be provided. This was done. Also, based upon our extensive pre-operation intel reports, this encampment has *not only* been a source of violence to those inside the encampment, but also to the surrounding community. Evidence of drug use was also observed, as well as weapons. Contrary to your characterizations, homeless encampments are not bastions of victims, but inherently also pose clear potential dangers to all in and around them. I invite you to view a recent nationally-published article just days after our Operation:

<https://www.foxnews.com/media/california-city-nearly-eliminates-homeless-population-zero-tolerance-policy-encampments>

In the spirit of cooperation, I personally invite you to join with us to help these people in the encampments and stop the danger that they pose to the community, especially if doing nothing creates more crime victims as they grow in size and numbers. We chose to do something, versus doing nothing. You can call me at 483-9292 to discuss this important issue and how you might be able to help. Thank you.

Cordially,



Douglas B. Moylan
Attorney General of Guam

cc: Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam
Honorable Joshua F. Tenorio, Lt. Governor of Guam
Honorable Jesse L.G. Alig, President Mayor's Council of Guam
Honorable Melissa B. Savares, Mayor of Dededo
Honorable Peter Benavente, Vice-Mayor of Dededo
All Mayors (19 Villages)