

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ALEX PADILLA'S REMARKS
PHONE BOOTH REMOVAL PRESS CONFERENCE
NORTH HILLS, CA
FEBRUARY 24, 2003

I would like to thank the Mayor, City Attorney Delgadillo, our City's Department of Public Works, the community of North Hills and the North Valley Neighborhood Service Cabinet for working together to remove these telephones that have been used for illegal activity here in North Hills.

There is a small but powerful element here in North Hills who feels it is their right to reach out and touch their drug dealers using these payphones.

Well, as of today, you can't reach out and touch *anybody* using payphones to conduct your ongoing criminal enterprise.

It's not your right, it's not your privilege, and it's just plain *wrong* to do what you do when you conduct drug deals in broad daylight, at dusk, or at any time of day.

Your drug dealing and drug peddling can only serve to bring about despair in our neighborhoods.

And guess what?

We're fighting back!

Your drug dealing harms our young people and our children. They need our help to stand up to you and let you know that what you're doing is not just illegal, it's not just wrong, but it's immoral.

WE DON'T WANT YOUR DRUGS IN NORTH HILLS.

WE DON'T WANT YOU MAKING DRUG DEAL CALLS IN NORTH HILLS.

AND WE DON'T WANT DRUG DEALERS IN NORTH HILLS OR ANYWHERE NEAR NORTH HILLS.

Today, with the removal of these payphones, we're taking our community BACK and giving it to whom it belongs: the hard working men, women, and children of North Hills.

With the coordinated efforts we're highlighting today, we're making sure that residents of North Hills today, tomorrow, and in future generations see hope in their community. We want residents to walk down the street free of fear. And we want our residents to be proud of their community.

Today, I'm proud of our City, I'm proud of our departments taking charge of this issue, but most of all, I'm proud of this community for sticking up, for fighting back, and for not giving up.