

# City of El Cajon News Release



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Monica Zech  
Public Information Officer  
(619) 441-1737 – office  
(619) 843-7218 – cell

## **El Cajon Fire Marshal Closes Down Overcrowded Event**

Just after 9:00 a.m. today, Heartland Fire & Rescue crews in the City of El Cajon responded to a medical aid call at 343 E. Main Street in El Cajon. Upon arrival, they found a crowd estimated at 5-hundred to a thousand people congregating around and into a business located on the second floor of an office building. The Fire Marshal was called, as well as El Cajon Police officers for traffic control, at the corner of E. Main Street and Avocado.

The Fire Marshal, Dan Pavao, found all entrances, including the stairwells jammed with people making it a very unsafe condition in case of an emergency, and made the decision to close the event down after unsuccessful attempts to organize the group. The owner of the building agreed, and the event will be rescheduled.

The office involved was the Caldean-Middle Eastern Social Services Office on the second floor of the building. Reportedly, there was a notice that Iraqi immigrants could come to have their documentation recertified to qualify for social service benefits. People were lining up as early as 5:00 a.m., with the office opening at 8:00 a.m.

The crowd did disperse in a calm and orderly fashion. There were no arrests. On the initial call, one person was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.