



MEDIA RELEASE

City of Soledad Named One of the Top 10 Safest Cities in California by the National Council for Home Safety and Security

Soledad, Calif., (February 24, 2020) – The National Council for Home Safety and Security released its annual *Safest Cities in California* report for 2020 that highlights the top 50 safest cities in California. In the safest cities ranking, the City of Soledad continues to maintain its top 10 ranking in the State with the rank of seven.

“While maintaining a high level of safety year after year can be challenging, I am confident about the impact of our efforts to embed public safety as a priority in city-wide initiatives and departments’ work,” said Michael McHatten, City Manager, City of Soledad. “When public safety is viewed as a shared value and responsibility, we have full buy-in and commitment.”

According to the report, in 2019, the City of Soledad averaged 2.66 per 1,000 violent crimes and 3.84 per 1,000 property crimes, compared to the State average of 4.47 per 1,000 violent crimes and 28.04 per 1,000 property crimes.

The City of Soledad is safer thanks to a deliberate, city-wide commitment by leadership to make public safety a priority and efforts to engage the community in achieving this goal. “The Police Department is actively involved in establishing and maintaining partnerships with the community through participation in local initiatives and events, such as our Coffee with a Cop and youth engagement programs,” says interim Chief of Police Damon Wasson.

Soledad has also seen greater civic engagement and support for public safety measures from residents and stakeholders across the city.

About the City of Soledad: Widely known as being the Gateway to the Pinnacles, the City of Soledad is located in the center of the Salinas Valley, adjacent to US 101 between the beautiful Santa Lucia Mountains to the west and the picturesque Gabilan Mountains to the east. Visitors can explore nearby Pinnacles National Park with its world-class hiking and rock-climbing and views of the majestic California condors. Soledad is also home to a booming agricultural community with fields of lettuce, broccoli and asparagus, as well as some of the finest wine grapes in the world. Its burgeoning local wine region was named by Wine Enthusiast magazine as one of the top ten best wine travel destinations in the world. For more information, visit www.CityofSoledad.com.