

Richard Zapata

My name is Richard Zapata and I have lived in the city of Anaheim for 12 years.

I am a by vocational license a minister, a motivational speaker, and spiritual counselor.

I enjoy being here because I am multicultural, and I enjoy the different cultures living together here in southern California and Orange county.

The biggest struggle has been traffic. I know the economy is good. That means more people out in the streets and it's harder to go and visit friends and folks that I would like to visit because—not the distance but the time it takes to drive. And, another issue besides the traffic is the parking—the parking areas, there's not a lot of parking space.

I love the multicultural aspect. I love the so many types of restaurants, foods... people. I love the weather. I love being close to the ocean. I love being close to Tijuana because I use the cross boarding in San Diego to get to Tijuana because I use that to fly to Mexico from Tijuana.

A hate-free OC would mean that I intentionally get to know my neighbors, people around me, people that live in my community. Intentionally, I would go and eat at different restaurants and talk to people. For instance, here in Anaheim, the Islamic centers and the restaurants around this neighborhood offer great food and great conversations so I can understand the Arabic and Middle Eastern communities here and the Asian community: Koreans, Japanese, especially the Vietnamese in Little Saigon here in OC are great places to establish great conversation and get to know people before you make a judgement.

It would be nice to get to know our neighbors to get to know who lives next to you. Participate in community events and block parties and try to connect to other folks different than you so you can know how they feel you know what they think. And there are many different events like school events, church events many other different ways that the city event puts together for the community to get involved. Volunteer do some type of community service. Join others that are already involved. Join a church that is already involved in the community as well. That way it will make it easier for you to connect with folks around you.