



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Diego City Council Establishes Select Committee on San Diego Housing Commission Oversight and Reform

San Diego – The San Diego City Council has created a new temporary standing committee named the Select Committee on San Diego Housing Commission Oversight and Reform. The committee will provide oversight to the San Diego Housing Commission and considering reforms to the governance and structure of the Commission.

The committee will consist of:

- Councilmember Stephen Whitburn (Chair)
- Councilmember Chris Cate (Vice-Chair)
- Councilmember Joe LaCava (Member)
- Councilmember Marni Von Wilpert (Member)

Over the course of the second half of 2021, Councilmember Chris Cate, Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, and Councilmember Joe LaCava met as the Housing Authority Working Group, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to identify potential reforms to the existing structure and relationship between the San Diego Housing Commission and the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego.

As a result of their work, Councilmembers Cate, Whitburn, and LaCava identified areas for reform including Housing Commission responsibilities, approval of contracts and property acquisitions and review of the President and CEO, among other items. The group also recommended forming a special committee to further evaluate options and consider actions to implement potential reforms.

"This mission of this committee is to strengthen the San Diego Housing Commission's governance so it has the solid foundation needed to make housing more affordable and end the homelessness crisis," said Council President Sean Elo-Rivera. "I want to thank my colleagues who will put many hours into making sure that we have fully explored all the best practices and options available to us."

Councilman Stephen Whitburn will Chair the Committee. **"I thank the Council President for appointing me to chair this important committee," said Councilmember Stephen Whitburn. "I think everyone would agree that two of our cities top priorities are to end widespread homelessness and to help people afford housing. Ultimately, the work of this Select Committee will help ensure the City is advancing those goals as effectively and efficiently as we can."**

Councilmember Chris Cate will serve as Vice-Chair. **"When considering the immense scope and impact of the San Diego Housing Commission, good faith oversight should absolutely be conducted on a regular basis. Unfortunately, we have reached a point where the current system is not working as well as it should," said Councilmember Chris Cate. "As a member of the Select Committee, I'm committed to identifying opportunities to improve the Housing Commission's efficiency and impact on San Diego's most vulnerable residents."**

Councilmember Joe LaCava will serve as a Committee Member. **"The continuation of the Housing Authority Working Group as the Select Committee is necessary to make informed decisions on potential reform," said Councilmember LaCava. "To better advocate for San Diego, I will focus on defining qualifications for Board of Commissioners and add expertise requirements in relevant disciplines like law, finance, and real estate. I also want to see a deputy city attorney assigned to the San Diego Housing Commission and present at board meetings. These reforms are necessary for improved transparency and accountability."**

Councilmember Marni Von Wilpert will also serve as a Committee Member. **"I am honored to serve on this select committee to provide oversight and identify areas of reform for the San Diego Housing Commission," said Councilmember Marni Von Wilpert.**

Council President Elo-Rivera represents San Diego's Ninth Council District

Councilmember Stephen Whitburn represents San Diego's Third District

Councilmember Chris Cate represents San Diego's Sixth District

Councilmember Joe LaCava represents San Diego's First District

Councilmember Marni Von Wilpert represents San Diego's Fifth District

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