



COUNCILMEMBER VIVIAN MORENO
City of San Diego
Eighth District
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 14, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria
Richard Gentry, President and CEO, San Diego Housing Commission

FROM: Councilmember Vivian Moreno

SUBJECT: Outreach Teams in District 8

The City has authorized operating agreements with several service providers such as City Net, San Diego Housing Commission, Alpha Project, and many other organizations to provide resources to address the homelessness related issues throughout the city.

Several of these contracted organizations utilize a neighborhood-based approach to strategically focus outreach resources. Outreach teams provide street-based case management and housing navigation services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the city based on information provided by the Mayor's office, input from Councilmembers as well as Get It Done reports. Outreach teams consisting of city personnel are meant to engage the homeless in identified priority areas.

It has come to my attention that several of these organizations have not deployed outreach teams on a consistent and equitable basis to District 8. Outreach teams are the initial point of entry for the homeless to move from the streets to the process of finding shelter and other resources. This has resulted in a higher concentration of homeless living on the streets within the communities District 8.

I have been contacted by hundreds of residents, property owners and business owners regarding a number of locations with concerning and unacceptable conditions, such as Logan Avenue and 16th Street, Memorial Park, Our Lady of Guadalupe and Kearny Avenue, and the Commercial Corridor. Last month, a local media outlet also reported on the matter and how it is negatively impacting the children attending school at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, which is in close proximity to one of the city's storage centers.

In order to ensure equitable access to city services aimed at assisting the homeless and efforts to keep streets clear of encampments and unsafe conditions, I respectfully request that all City staff work with all contracted service providers to draft and present a comprehensive, effective and long-term outreach team plan to address highly impacted locations in District 8, as well as a calendar of current homeless outreach events that each organization is planning that are accessible to the public. Communities need to have access to, or the means to obtain, reliable information about the problems and practices that they are trying to address. Providing ongoing and robust engagement with the community will allow residents, businesses, service providers and city staff to identify how best to address the concerns identified in this memorandum.

Thank you for your prompt action in this important matter.

CC:

Charles Modica, Interim Independent Budget Analyst

Hafsa Kaka, Director, Homeless Strategies Division

Renee Robertson, Director, Environmental Services Department

David Nisleit, Chief, San Diego Police Department