



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 25, 2022

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## **City Council Advances Reform of People's Ordinance to November Election**

San Diego – San Diego residents will vote on reforms to the “People’s Ordinance” in the November election after the City Council advanced the proposed changes to the 100-year-old law.

**“I’m grateful for my Council colleagues and the many community groups who support this measure’s inclusion on the November ballot,”** said Council President Elo-Rivera. **“Reforming the People’s Ordinance will provide San Diego residents with better services, a more sustainable environment and a more responsible government.”**

Council President Elo-Rivera and Councilmember LaCava presented the proposed amendments to the Ordinance, which would:

- Allow the City to recover costs for providing waste management services to eligible residents;
- Lead to service enhancements, including eliminating the standalone fee for curbside bins and delivery;
- Ensure short-term vacation rentals, accessory dwelling units, and “mini-dorms” that receive City waste management services pay their fair share for those services; and
- Eliminate the policy that results in the City being the only jurisdiction in the County where most residents in apartments and condominiums pay for waste management services that others receive at no charge.
- Protect the jobs of the City’s sanitation workers;

Under the current Ordinance, the City is prohibited from recovering costs from most single-family homes for trash collection services, while residents in apartments and condominiums must pay a private company for such services. This inequity has been highlighted by numerous independent analyses, including by three San

Diego County Grand Juries and the City's Independent Budget Analyst. Amending the People's Ordinance to bring forth a more responsible City government requires a vote of the people.

**“Removing the antiquated barriers of the People’s Ordinance will provide the tools the City needs to meet our Climate Action Plan goals and comply with State law,”** said Environment Committee Chair, Joe LaCava. **“We can increase collection frequency and expand recycling services to greatly reduce trash in our landfill.”**

Environmental groups and community groups support changes to the People's Ordinance.

**“Amending the People’s Ordinance to institute a Pay as You Throw fee is the first step to a long-term solution for the City Council’s commitment to equity, the environment and to responsible government,”** said Kim Knox, President of the League of Women Voters. **“In addition to recovering costs, a fee could incentivize residents to recycle, compost and reduce the amount of waste generated, as well as enable the City to provide education, free waste bin replacement and regular pickup of bulky items, services that can enhance participation and prevent illegal dumping.”**

**“It’s time to reform this 100-year-old law,”** said Michael Zucchet, President of the Municipal Employees Association. **“This broad coalition of support from the environmental community, the labor community, the business community and League of Women Voters, shows that the People’s Ordinance needs to be updated to properly serve the residents of San Diego.”**

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*Council President Elo-Rivera represents San Diego’s Ninth Council District including communities of City Heights, Rolando, Southcrest, Mt. Hope, Talmadge, Mountain View, Kensington, El Cerrito, and the College Area. He is the Chair of the Rules Committee.*

*Councilmember Joe LaCava represents San Diego City Council District 1, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City.*

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