



News from **Councilmember Todd Gloria**

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

NEWS RELEASE

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Grand Jury Calls for Regional Homelessness Solutions Councilmember Gloria Outlines Progress and Remaining Plans to Address Report's Recommendations

SAN DIEGO, CA (May 17, 2010) – Following the release today of the Grand Jury Report, "Homeless in San Diego," Councilmember Todd Gloria outlined the progress recently made toward homelessness solutions and additional efforts by the City of San Diego that address the Grand Jury's recommendations.

- **Recommendation:** Permanent Homeless Intake Facility
Progress: Land Use and Housing Committee, chaired by Councilmember Gloria, heard the proposal for a permanent homeless services center on April 21 and will take action on July 21.
- **Recommendation:** Regional Approach to Homelessness
Progress: Keys to Housing, a regional advisory council chaired by Councilmember Gloria, is being organized to focus on addressing family homelessness and will hold its first meeting in June.
- **Recommendation:** Interim Year-Round Temporary Shelters
Progress: The City of San Diego is already working with potential service providers for its winter homeless shelter to ensure it is fully operational in a timely fashion. Additional funds will be pursued to allow for it to extend beyond the customary 16 weeks.
- **Recommendation:** Improved Cleanliness of Downtown Streets and Sidewalks
- **Progress:** Councilmember Gloria will ask the LUH Committee to discuss potential remedies at its July 21 meeting.
- **Recommendation:** Improved Conditions of the Neil Good Day Center
- **Progress:** The City has identified funding to expand operations and ensure weekend operations. Also, to offset security expenses at the Center, security cameras were installed. Finally, the shower upgrade project was expanded to include ADA compliance for the entire facility, as well as plumbing repairs. The project is expected to be complete in April 2012.

According to the Survey on Residents' Opinions on City Services, released on April 15, homelessness was among the top priorities of San Diegans, which is reflected by the work of City leaders.

"Homelessness is a focus of the City Council," said Councilmember Gloria. **"The Grand Jury report shows that the City of San Diego is on the right track, and I look forward to continuing our efforts to address the report's recommendations."**

As Chair of the City Council's Land Use and Housing Committee (LUH), Councilmember Gloria has brought additional attention and advocacy to issues related to homelessness. On April 21, the committee laid the groundwork for the City Council to approve the proposal for a permanent one-stop homeless services and housing facility this summer.

"The proposed comprehensive homeless service center will bring an established and successful model of housing, care and support to San Diego," said Councilmember Gloria. **"My colleagues on the City Council and the neighbors they represent will be impressed with the social and economic benefits of the center, and I look forward to their support of the project."**

The proposal for the homeless services facility in the World Trade Center building was developed by several partnering organizations who recognized the value of combining healthcare, mental health services, substance abuse care, and job training with housing to successfully move San Diegans from the streets onto more productive paths.

Proponents are currently discussing the proposal with neighbors and other interested parties before LUH next hears the item again, likely at its July 21 meeting, which is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on the 12th floor of the City Administration Building, 202 C Street. Other recommendations from the Grand Jury will also be discussed, including potential policies and procedures to protect the property of homeless individuals,

The Grand Jury also recommended a regional authority to assist in solving the homeless problem. Councilmember Gloria will continue his leadership on homelessness issues as the Chair of the Keys to Housing Advisory Council. Keys to Housing is part of the Homelessness Working Group spearheaded by San Diego Grantmakers. The goal is to incubate a regional plan and toolbox for cities to end family homelessness in line with nationally recognized best practices, the regionally-endorsed HomeAgain plan for chronic homelessness, the Regional Housing Elements plans, cities' efforts to comply with state law, and the state's draft Action Plan for California Homeless Families. Councilmember Gloria has invited elected officials to join him in providing regional representation to assure that strategies and tools developed can be implemented both regionally and within individual jurisdictions. The Advisory Council's first meeting is in June, and the group will meet quarterly for the next 15-18 months.

The City Council will formally respond to the Grand Jury report by October 16, 2010, as required by law. The full report is available at http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/grandjury/report09_10.html.

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