

The City of

SAN DIEGO

Office of Councilmember Georgette Gómez

FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE



3/22/2017

In Solidarity with the Communities of District 9

As your newly elected Councilmember for District 9, I am proud to serve the distinctive communities that comprise our district. My first 100 days in office have been productive, as my staff and I hit the ground running to serve you; addressing your issues, engaging with you at community meetings, and building community relationships to ensure that our district gets the attention it deserves.

While serving a diverse district brings a unique set of challenges, it presents many opportunities for our future. I am confident that by working together we can improve the quality of life for all residents and promote economic opportunities in Council District 9.

In this memo are some highlights of our work in the first 100 days. As we move ahead, I truly look forward to working in solidarity with you to serve our communities.

FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE COMMUNITIES OF DISTRICT 9

Fast Facts:

50
Rallies and Community Events
Attended by Councilmember Gómez

106
Community Meetings Attended by Staff

48
Community Meeting Attended by
Councilmember Gómez

25.28
Tons of Waste Removed in
Community Clean Ups

15
Commendations &
Proclamations

5
Press Conferences Held

Timeline Highlights

Inauguration Day
December 12, 2016



San Diego Women's March
January 21, 2017



Vision Zero Press Conference
March 1, 2017



Chollas Creek Press Conference
January 12, 2017



Year of Solidarity
February 27, 2017



Southcrest Trails Groundbreaking
March 13, 2017



Accomplishments:

PROCLAIMING 2017 THE YEAR OF SOLIDARITY

District 9 is the most diverse district in the City of San Diego. Our communities include refugees, immigrants, Vietnamese, Somali, East African, Latino, students, seniors, working class families, small businesses, members of the LGBTQ community, and many others. I am proud of this diversity, as it makes our neighborhoods unique, and wonderful places to live, work, and play.



The current political climate has been very challenging in ensuring all people are treated equally with dignity and respect; but here in San Diego, we stand united. This is why my first City Council proclamation was declaring 2017 the “Year of Solidarity” in the City of San Diego. Signed by the Mayor and fellow City Councilmembers, we sent a message that all of us should be treated with dignity and respect, no matter our origins, whom we love, the religion we practice, or our economic status.

HIRING EXPERIENCED STAFF

To best serve you, I’ve assembled an experienced and diverse team to work for District 9, each with a unique set of skills suited to serve the community.



Nika Bukalova, Chief of Staff, brings expertise in public policy and leadership development from her tenure in prior council offices and the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst. Lara Gates, Chief of Policy and Audit Committee Consultant, brings over 20 years of city planning experience. Roberto C. Torres, Director of Communications, brings

invaluable knowledge of the district and environmental policy. Brenda Lugo, Director of Office Administration, manages the day-to-day operations of our office, while bringing previous experience from former Councilmember Marti Emerald’s office.

Our Council Community Representatives are Kelvin Barrios, Gloria Cruz, Keryna Johnson, and Matt Yagyagan; each one bringing a different perspective to the office.

Kelvin Barrios, a native San Diegan, is closely familiar with the City Heights community, where he was raised. Gloria Cruz brings broad experience in matters of public safety and human justice issues. Keryna Johnson is our housing and infrastructure policy advisor. Matt Yagyagan serves as lead on budget and economic development.

Our team not only brings years of experience in their fields, but a passion and drive to serve our diverse communities, and make a difference in the quality of life for all.

OUR PRIORITIES

In December, the City Council approved my assignment to serve as Chair of the Audit Committee, and membership on the Smart Growth & Land Use, Budget & Government Efficiency, and Infrastructure Committees. I was also assigned to represent the City on the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Board and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Transportation Committee.

In January, my office issued policy memos highlighting my various areas of concern in the District and the City. Many of the communities within District 9 have historically been underserved, so it was a great task to identify all the needs and priorities for the District. My office successfully issued policy memos outlining our priorities on the Budget & Government Efficiency, Environment, Public Safety, Smart Growth & Land Use, and Infrastructure Committees.

In addition to assessing the needs of our neighborhoods and crafting policy memos, my office partnered with Council Districts Three and Eight to prepare a joint Budget Priorities memo for our communities. Some of the priority needs identified included:

- Fixing existing streetlights and developing a plan to add more streetlights in areas that lack lighting;
- Identifying projects and ways to implement the City's Climate Action Plan policies and goals;
- Requesting more funds for more parks and open spaces in parks-deficient communities;
- Adding code enforcement officers to address non-compliant developers and substandard housing;
- Funding projects like improvements to Aldine Drive (Kensington/Talmadge);
- Continuing street improvements across the District;
- Advancing the Chollas Triangle plan (City Heights);
- Advocating for the construction of additional fire stations in City Heights and the College Area;
- Prioritizing the Tubman Joint Use Park (College Area); and
- Developing the Southcrest Trails Park (Southcrest); and other priority projects across the District.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

In an effort to best serve and represent all communities, my staff and I actively participated in various events and meetings throughout the City and District, sharing our message of solidarity and inclusiveness. Below are just some of the major events I have had the privilege to participate in my first 100 days:

Out in the Community

Addressing housing affordability and homelessness is a top priority for my office.



This is why my staff and I participated in the County's Regional Task Force on the Homeless **"WeAllCount"** event, where hundreds of volunteers surveyed and counted our homeless population in the City. The City Council also held a **Special Meeting on Homelessness** to discuss the current efforts in addressing the City's crisis, such working to identify a dedicated source of funding for this issue.

Since taking office, I have participated in various forums and discussions regarding affordable housing, including the **Affordable Housing Summit**

held by the Smart Growth and Land Use Committee, the **Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 (C3) Panel on Housing**, and discussions with the **San Diego Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee**.

In an effort to ease the cost of housing, the City of San Diego is actively pursuing methods to streamline permitting and provide funding for new development. For this reason, I recently supported approving the next phase of the new **Affordable Housing Transit-Oriented Development Fund**, which is on track to launch this year and is anticipated to raise between \$50 million and \$100 million of capital that will be invested to fund new housing units.

Deferred maintenance and infrastructure must also be addressed. Our City has a significant backlog of potholes, street light outages, and lack of sidewalks. While a lot of work remains, we are working every day to bring more street lights and sidewalks into the district to improve pedestrian safety.

To highlight my priorities on infrastructure, I participated in the **Vision Zero press conference** addressing the need to fix the "Fatal Fifteen" intersections in San Diego, two of the worst being in District 9.

My staff and I are also working to identify funding to modernize the street lighting in Kensington, and bring new lights to City Heights, and our communities south of the SR-94, including Southcrest. The City has completed the El Cajon Boulevard Study, and identified projects that will bring significant improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists along the poorly maintained sections of El Cajon Boulevard.



Equality is a guiding principle of my office and, to show our commitment, my staff and I participated in the **Women's March** on January 21st. My office is devoted to ensuring that our communities of color, LGBTQ, women, working families, and the underserved are treated with dignity and respect.

Diversity is something to be celebrated and highlighted. District 9 is home to many different cultures and ethnic communities, and our diversity is meant to be highlighted. Since assuming office, I had the honor of participating in the **Tết Festival** (Vietnamese New Year) and the **Karen New Year**.

Our office is committed to continue to highlight the uniqueness of each and every one of our communities. We stand in solidarity with all and will work with everyone to promote further understanding and to celebrate and uplift our District 9 communities.



The Environment is particularly important to me. I believe that we, as a society, need to ensure that we leave our planet in better shape for generations to come by reducing our Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG). San Diego is leading the charge, with an ambitious **Climate Action Plan** (CAP), but now we, as a city, must work to implement the CAP. I am committed to ensuring that our communities hardest hit by climate change are served and benefit from our CAP goals. This is why our office has expressed support for increasing housing along our transit corridors - in order to reduce the need

to own vehicles and allow more people to utilize mass transit; making it easier for residents to shop, dine, and work within close proximity to their home.

My office has participated in various press conferences and rallies to show our support for implementing our CAP, standing up for environmental justice, and healthy communities. My first press conference as a City Councilmember was announcing a grant for the **Chollas Creek Multi-Use Path** in Southcrest that will connect



Southeastern San Diego to the Bayshore Bikeway.

Recently, I also participated in the groundbreaking of the **Southcrest Trails Park**, which includes bicycle and pedestrian trails and is set to open in 2018.

These projects are important to promote active transportation, as well as healthy living, by encouraging residents to spend more time outdoors. I also participated in the **SanDiego350 Climate Rally**, voicing the need for all of us to do our part to protect our environment.

Important Votes

Our City was asked to sign on to two very important amicus briefs in the cases of ***Washington v. Trump*** and ***Gloucester County School Board v. G.G.*** At the heart of these matters, both of the cases challenge the unconstitutional prejudice against certain immigrants and refugees and our transgender youth.

The City Council voted to sign on and share our support for the lawsuits, rightly claiming unjust impacts to our residents for these policies in question.

The City Council has also made some very important appointments to our boards and commissions. It was my pleasure to support the reappointment of Rafael Castellanos and Marshall Merrifield to the **Board of the Unified Port of San Diego**. Also, last month we appointed new members to the **Citizen's Advisory Board on Police and Community Relations**, including my nominee, Jay Bowser.



An example of how the community can work with Council offices to get things done, in January; the City Council passed the **High Occupancy Housing Ordinance**, which addressed impacts related to single family homes from members in our College Area community. I was happy to cast my vote in support of the ordinance.

Looking Forward

As I have mentioned, we have been actively serving you and our communities. However, much work remains to be done and our first 100 days are only the beginning. As we continue on in my first term, I have several top priorities that my staff and I will address. Below is my action plan for the years to come.

Bringing City Hall to You

I am dedicated to engaging with you, to resolve your issues, and advocate for you at City Hall. Moving forward, we will proactively communicate and represent your voice at City Hall.



On April 10th we will hold a community meeting in the district with our newly-elected City Attorney Mara Elliott; giving you an opportunity to hear about her plans and priorities, as well as take input regarding issues that are affecting our communities.

Additionally, on May 18th, our office will hold a community meeting to solicit your input regarding the City's budget. We look forward to hearing your suggestions and engaging you in the budget process.

From our first day in office we have committed to delivering the highest level of constituent service. On March 10th, we began holding weekly office hours at the City Heights Recreation Center -- 4380 Landis St, San Diego, CA 92105 -- Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., and we will continue to hold these office hours regularly throughout our term.

As we look to the future, you may count on my office to provide prompt follow-ups on your requests in order to help expedite City services. Our Council Community Representatives and I will actively engage with the community. As we have done since we have assumed office, we will issue monthly newsletters, actively inform you on social media, and work with you to ensure your input drives our decisions.

Innovative Housing Solutions

As a member of the Smart Growth and Land Use Committee, I will continue to advocate for streamlining solutions in conjunction with ensuing projects are well-designed, to begin addressing our housing supply issues. Additionally, I believe we should prioritize infrastructure investments to our mixed-use, walkable, urban “villages” that are linked to our regional transit system, where a high level of activity already exists, and that have the capacity for growth. This is smart growth.

Using Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund monies to ensure economic revitalization and job creation, as outlined in our budget priority memo, is also key to providing balanced communities. I will advocate to use this revenue to invest in San Diego's economically-disadvantaged communities, especially within the designated Promise Zone areas. As part of this overall strategy, I will ensure that we lift up our communities and provide healthy housing and access to better paying jobs for all to ensure that people and families are able to stay in the communities where they live.



I am also very excited about working to implement the Mid-City Community Plan's Chollas Parkway & Chollas Triangle Park policies, which are part of a visionary development strategy. This site could potentially increase housing supply by well over 500 units, create safer streets, promote walkability, provide park land, encourage commercial uses, and restore Chollas Creek for the community.

Addressing the Homeless Crisis

Addressing the homeless crisis in San Diego is another priority of mine. Homelessness has been increasing and demands an urgent and coordinated response from the City, County, and community partners throughout the region. My office will continue to partner with Alpha Project to provide outreach services in District 9.

While I believe we should continue to make homeless services a priority, I am especially supportive of evidence-based programs that provide a pathway to permanent housing, that are well-measured, and that are linked to best practices nationwide. I am advocating for new and innovative ways to fund this issue, and will be looking at successful approaches from across the state.

Championing Economic Development in Our Communities

As your Councilmember, I hope to build strong partnerships between our business community, our neighborhoods, and our local government so we can improve the quality of life for all. I hope to convene and collaborate with our local leaders to create well-paying jobs as well as a safe business environment in District 9. Together, we need to support the businesses that contribute to our neighborhoods every day, while attracting new and emerging industries to provide different economic opportunities for our communities.

Proactively Protecting the Environment

The goals set by the CAP are bold and will require bold leadership. I am committed to ensuring we meet those goals by supporting our dense urban development projects along our transit corridors as well as infrastructure projects that implement the General Plan's City of Villages strategy, fully implementing a Community Choice Aggregation system which gives residents more choice and freedom from utility companies, and by passing supplementary ordinances that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, waste, and improve the quality of life for all San Diegans.



Public Safety

In support of our communities, I sent a letter of support to Senator Kevin De León in support of Senate Bill 54 (California Values Act). SB 54 upholds our shared values of equal treatment, community, family unity, dignity and respect by ensuring that California's police departments, schools, hospitals, and courts remain accessible to every Californian. Immigrants are part of San Diego's heart and soul and have deep roots in its neighborhoods and communities.

A Final Thought

We have done a lot in 100 days, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. It may take some time and energy, but I am confident that when my first term is finished, the City of San Diego and the boards that I serve on will work better for you and that we change the status quo, which has been operating in our City and region for decades.

My staff and I will always work to represent your voice at City Hall and bring desperately needed resources to our District. There will always be potholes to fix and street lights to turn on, but we must work together to resolve these issues. My office is a resource to you and to our communities. Never hesitate to reach out to me or my staff. We are here to serve you.

In Solidarity,

Georgette Gómez, Councilmember
City of San Diego, Council District Nine