



News from  
**Councilmember Todd Gloria**

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City of San Diego ▪ District Three

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**A Growing Opportunity for Community Gardens**

*City Council Approves Eased Regulations for Community Gardens in San Diego*

SAN DIEGO, CA (June 7, 2011) – San Diegans wanting to establish community gardens will now have an easier time thanks to unanimous action taken today by the San Diego City Council. Councilmember Todd Gloria, who championed the changes for more than two years, was excited by today's advancement.

**“By permitting community gardens by right in commercial and residential zones throughout the City, this ordinance will eliminate some of the largest barriers to establishing community gardens in San Diego,”** said Councilmember Todd Gloria.

The ordinance permits community gardens in all commercial and residential zones by right as a limited use, provided gardens comply with the use requirements in the Municipal Code throughout the City. The ordinance would also allow for the onsite sale of produce that is grown on site in commercial and industrial zones, but not in residential zones.

Among the other critical changes approved today:

- Gardens will no longer be required to have their own water meters. This will mean community gardeners can make other watering arrangements if they choose not to invest in a City water meter, which generally costs \$14,000.
- The requirement for fences and the ability to lock the garden have been deleted. Fences can be erected at the discretion of the garden, but are not required.

**“For years, I have been getting the message from San Diegans that community gardens can improve the quality of life for individuals who otherwise would not have an opportunity to garden. They can be a source of healthy, nutritious foods; serve as catalysts for neighborhood advancement; and stimulate social interaction and provide opportunities for cross-cultural connections. Despite these benefits, we’ve also been told that establishing gardens is too expensive and that there are not enough potential locations. Because of this, most community gardens have long waiting lists, and I frequently hear requests for more,”** said Councilmember Gloria.

Councilmember Gloria began his advocacy for better regulations of community gardens when he served as Chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee from 2008-2010.

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