

News from Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego • District Three

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Redevelopment Committee Suspends Work Pending Court Decision State Supreme Court's Order Halts Positive Local Progress

SAN DIEGO, CA (September 22, 2011) – Councilmember and Redevelopment Agency Board Member Todd Gloria today released the following statement announcing the suspension of work by the Ad Hoc Committee on Redevelopment, which he chairs.

"2011 marked the start of a new era for the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Diego. This year, the Agency launched its first ever Ad Hoc Committee on Redevelopment, and I was honored to serve as the Committee's Chairman. The Committee has made great strides over the last several months contemplating myriad solutions to make redevelopment work better for all of our communities. Specifically, it has studied potential governance and structure reforms to improve performance and transparency in our redevelopment areas to better address the needs of those neighborhoods. It has also explored the role of the Mayor in the redevelopment process in light of our City's relatively new Strong Mayor-Strong Council form of government.

"Unfortunately, redevelopment agencies across the state have been under attack due to the ongoing State budget crisis. First, there was a proposal to eliminate redevelopment entirely. Then, State laws were adopted to transfer local redevelopment dollars to pay for State obligations. Most recently, on August 17, 2011, the California Supreme Court issued an amended order that, in practical effect, prevents all redevelopment agencies throughout California from conducting new business and requires them to take certain affirmative steps acting as if they are preparing to be dissolved. Needless to say, these significant issues have diverted the Ad Hoc Committee's attention.

"Under advice from the Redevelopment Agency's General Counsel, the Ad Hoc Committee's continued discussion of, and deliberation on, a proposed reorganization of the Redevelopment Agency is likely to be viewed as contrary to the Supreme Court's amended order.

"For that reason, the Ad Hoc Committee is suspending its work on the proposed reorganization of the Redevelopment Agency while the Supreme Court's amended order remains in effect. The Supreme Court's final ruling is expected in early January 2012. If and when the Redevelopment Agency is permitted to conduct new business again, the Redevelopment Agency may consider extending the duration of the Ad Hoc Committee beyond its current expiration date of December 15, 2011.

"I look forward to the high court's ruling and remain confident that we will be able to complete the work started by the Ad Hoc Committee is to make the San Diego Redevelopment Agency an economic engine for our City that is responsive and accountable to our citizens."