



News from City of San Diego

**Councilmembers Sherri Lightner, Todd Gloria and David Alvarez**

Immediate Release: Oct. 26, 2011

Contact: Jennifer Davies, (619) 405-2741

## **Building a Foundation for Affordable Housing**

*Broad-based Coalition Working to Develop Cohesive, Long-range Strategy*

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – Providing affordable housing is vital to San Diego’s future. To highlight the issue, the San Diego City Council Land Use & Housing Committee is focusing on all aspects of affordable housing at its meeting today. Topics include sustainable funding sources, transit-oriented development and financing plans.

Councilmember Sherri Lightner, who chairs the Land Use & Housing Committee, said creating affordable workforce housing is a complex puzzle that needs the full attention and focus of the City Council and the community.

“The problem is too big to piecemeal together a solution,” Councilmember Lightner said. “We all need to work together to come up with ways to make building workforce housing easier and more cost effective.”

Having appropriate and available housing is critical to the local economy and makes it easier to recruit and retain businesses and workers. When located near public transit centers, it also helps create vibrant, walkable neighborhoods and benefits the environment by reducing long commute times and providing an alternative to driving.

Because of its importance, the City Council’s Land Use & Housing Committee is spearheading an effort to engage all stakeholders – from the business and building communities to affordable housing advocates – to craft a comprehensive plan for tackling the supply of affordable housing.

One of the key challenges is adequately funding affordable housing development.

To help create a comprehensive affordable housing plan, the City Council recently asked the Affordable Housing Best Practices Task Force, comprised of key stakeholders, to come up with viable, long-term funding options. The Task Force will provide an update on its findings at today’s meeting.

Councilmember Todd Gloria, a long-time affordable housing advocate and a member of the Land Use & Housing Committee, said funding is the critical issue facing a successful affordable housing program.

“With redevelopment funds in question and the economy continuing to struggle, we need to find sources of revenue that are sustainable,” Councilmember Gloria said.

The Affordable Housing Best Practices Task Force, coordinated by the San Diego Housing Commission, will give its final recommendations to Land Use & Housing next month.

Councilmember Lightner and Councilmember David Alvarez will convene a subcommittee and bring their recommendations to the full City Council early next year based on the work of the Best Practices Task Force.

“We’ve had plenty of task forces on this issue. We need to move past talking about affordable housing and start doing something,” Councilmember Alvarez said. “I commit to pushing this issue forward at City Council and beyond.”

For the full Land Use & Housing Committee’s agenda, please go to [http://docs.sandiego.gov/ccagenda\\_luh/1111026.pdf](http://docs.sandiego.gov/ccagenda_luh/1111026.pdf)

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