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San Diego City Council
District 1

For Immediate Release

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Statement on Electric Scooter Regulations

San Diego— The City Council finally approved regulations on electric scooters which have become a public safety issue. Since public safety is the number one responsibility of local government, our community expects us to pass responsible regulations. Last year, at a budget committee hearing, my staff presented an in-depth overview of what other cities were doing when dockless mobility vehicles first arrived in their jurisdictions. These cities were much more proactive than the City of San Diego. After that committee hearing, I led a working group alongside Council President Gomez. We met with present and future operators, and different advocacy stakeholders including mobility, active transportation and disabled advocates. Most importantly, we learned a lot from bringing everyone to the table.

I share the frustrations of residents. It should not have taken us a year to pass an ordinance—an ordinance that still needs work.

At yesterday's hearing, I reminded my Council colleagues that last summer, I had supported an emergency ban of electric scooters on our local boardwalks. Since then, the situation has gotten even more chaotic and unsafe. I remained committed to a ban so yesterday I asked for the motion to include a scooter ban on Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and La Jolla boardwalks. We were informed by the City Attorney that a boardwalk ban had not been noticed and that we must bring that request back at a different time. Committee Chair Kersey (who had also supported a boardwalk ban last year) committed to having this item heard at the Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It is my hope that a boardwalk ban will be heard at the full City Council before the summer months when our boardwalks experience the highest pedestrian traffic.

In the meantime, we asked that the boardwalks be included on the 3 mph geofencing list. The City Attorney informed us that Chapter 6 of the code has a 8 mph speed limit on the boardwalks which we could not amend at yesterday's hearing. It is my hope that this amendment will be included in the final ordinance.

Yesterday was an overdue step in the right direction. It was, however, only the first step. Please know that I remain committed to dockless mobility regulations that are enforceable, equitable, and address the myriad of safety concerns that our residents have experienced.

Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry represents San Diego City Council District 1, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City.

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