



Office of Councilmember

Georgette Gómez

Year-End Report



2017

Dear Residents,

It has been an honor serving you this year and it is my pleasure to present our 2017 Year-End Report, highlighting major achievements and a look ahead to our plans for 2018.

Since taking office, I pledged to work on your behalf to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans and uplift our neighborhoods. My staff and I have taken that task seriously and, working in partnership with you, we have made strides to accomplish a number of significant achievements in 2017.

As the new year approaches, I look forward to continuing our charge to improve our communities and I am excited to partner with you to continue uplifting our neighborhoods.

In Solidarity,

Georgette Gómez, Councilmember

FAST FACTS:

133

Rallies and Community Events
Attended by Councilmember Gómez

116

Community Meetings Attended by
Councilmember Gómez

291

Commendations & Proclamations

388
Community Meetings
Attended by Staff

18
Press Conferences & Media
Interviews

Bringing City Hall To You

Councilmember Gómez and staff have worked diligently to serve every community in District Nine. A few months after taking office, Councilmember Gómez and her team started holding regular office hours every Friday at the City Heights Rec Center, giving residents an opportunity to drop by and address their concerns with the Councilmember or her team.

Councilmember Gómez also held two community forums aimed at informing our residents and seeking their input. In April, the Councilmember joined City Attorney Mara Elliott for a town hall meeting, and in May, she held a budget town hall with Andrea Tevlin, the City's Independent Budget Analyst.

In addition to holding office hours and community meetings, Councilmember Gómez began a unique community canvassing program, focused on talking with residents to seek input on the issues affecting their quality of life. So far, our office has canvassed Southcrest, Castle Park, and the Teralta West neighborhoods of District Nine, and we will canvass a new community every month in 2018.



Celebrating Our Diversity



On February 27, 2017, Councilmember Gómez proclaimed 2017 as the **Year of Solidarity**. The proclamation set a tone of unity amongst our diverse communities and leaders in the San Diego binational region.

Throughout the year our office supported numerous events that celebrated our immigrant and refugee communities, as well as the strong binational partnership with our neighboring City of Tijuana.

On October 5, 2017 Councilmember Gómez presented a **resolution in opposition to the President's Border Wall**. With the Councilmember's leadership, the resolution was successfully adopted by the City Council and sent a message that the proposed wall is an offensive symbol of fear and division that will increase tensions with Mexico; one of the United States' largest trading partners and neighbor in which our communities in the border region are inextricably linked.

Our office has also been engaged in conversations and actions with stakeholders and leaders in the LGBTQ community within the San Diego-Tijuana region to address quality of life issues. Councilmember Gómez is especially committed to supporting the transgender community which has been a target of hate and violence throughout the region.



Tackling Our Housing and Homelessness Crisis

Office of Councilmember
SD Georgette Gómez



Housing Action Plan

Councilmember Gómez has made a significant impact in housing policy by proposing a variety of new housing regulations which were included in our **Housing Action Plan (HAP)**, released in July 2017. The HAP includes seven initiatives intended to encourage an increased supply of housing, with an emphasis on promoting more affordable housing options to address the City's 160,000 unit shortfall.

The HAP is intended to be a long-term guide to solve our housing crisis and Councilmember Gómez and staff continue working actively on its full implementation.

Some of our HAP related accomplishments this year include:



- ✓ *Reducing many development barriers for companion units, more commonly known as granny flats.*
- ✓ *Moving to reduce fees for companion unit development.*
- ✓ *Requesting the Housing Commission to prepare an updated Inclusionary Housing Fee Study, which would encourage future development to build on site affordable housing instead of paying an "in-lieu" fee.*

- ✓ *Working with State legislators to develop a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) Incentive option as part of the State of California's Affordable Housing Density Bonus.*

As the Vice-Chair of the Select Committee on Homelessness, Councilmember Gómez has continued to advocate for innovative housing solutions for the homeless, such as "tiny homes". Our office is excited to report that we are currently exploring the launch of a pilot tiny home village site in 2018.

Councilmember Gómez and staff also continue to work with our state officials to incentivise growth and utilize state grants for special projects.



Fighting for Your Tax Dollars And Bringing Business to District Nine



In the first year on the City Council, Councilmember Gómez was able to help close a projected \$81 million deficit through the annual budget process while weighing in on initiatives that make our government more efficient. She opposed a wasteful \$5 million Special Election, and instead, proposed that the money be invested in critical needs such as maintaining current Code Compliance personnel, programs for the homeless, police recruitment and retention incentives, and the Penny for the Arts program.

Councilmember Gómez pushed the City to make strides in the local enforcement of our Earned Sick leave and Minimum Wage Ordinances. As a member of the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee, she advocated for the need for our local government to educate employers about how to comply with this voter-approved ordinance.

Councilmember Gómez also worked to lay a foundation to foster equitable economic development across District 9. She supported the efforts of local business groups to bring access to capital to hardworking small businesses and, in the new year, she looks forward to supporting collaborative efforts to make investments in the several Business Improvement Districts in our communities.



the College Area Business Improvement District.

This year, Councilmember Gómez was able to participate in a local business walk along El Cajon Boulevard to better connect with the local small business community and to bring resources to them. She also helped to drive investment to the District by organizing an economic development bus tour with the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and also participating in a bus tour with



Leading in Public Transit

During Councilmember Gómez's first year on the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), she successfully advocated and passed a budget that prevented cuts and increased the frequency of some of our most used routes. Councilmember Gómez lead the conversations away from raising the current fare rate to cover the increases to services and instead looked to securing future state funding.



Councilmember Gómez spearheaded the advocacy and move for a vote on MTS to support Assembly Bill 805. AB 805 improves the accountability and transparency of our region's transit agencies and was signed by the Governor in November. Councilmember Gómez introduced a City of San Diego resolution in supporting AB 805, subsequently adopted by the City Council on June 27, 2017.

Councilmember Gómez also pushed for the electrification of MTS's bus fleet, and recently, the Board approved a pilot program to explore the feasibility of electric buses in San Diego. With her leadership, MTS is taking strides to reduce San Diego's green-house gas emissions.

A Look Ahead

2017 brought some unique challenges but also opportunities. While Councilmember Gómez lead efforts to tackle our homeless and housing crisis, she also introduced resolutions that celebrated our diversity and protected our vulnerable communities.

Councilmember Gómez's work to uplift our neighborhoods will continue into 2018. Watch for Councilmember Gómez out in your community, visit us at our office hours, or say hello at a community event or meeting hosted by our office. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and NextDoor to stay up-to-date.

Councilmember Gómez is committed to improving the quality of life for District Nine and all San Diegans in the years ahead through our continued work on our Housing Action Plan, our anticipated Economic Prosperity Plan, and our continued high level of service working for each and every one of you.

Our residents are what makes District Nine unique, and on behalf of all of us in the Office of Councilmember Georgette Gómez, it has been both an honor and a privilege to serve you. We are firmly committed to providing an exceptional level of service and look forward to working together to improve San Diego and our district in the new year.

Our District 9 Team:



Council Rep & Policy Advisor
Kelvin Barrios



Chief of Staff
Dominika Bukalova



Policy Advisor
Marcus Bush



Council Rep & Policy Advisor
Gloria Cruz Cardenas



Policy Advisor
Sheri Carr



Chief of Policy
Lara Gates



Council Rep & Policy Advisor
Keryna Johnson



Director of Administration
Brenda Lugo



Intern
Emiliano "Nano" Nuñez



Director of Communications
Roberto C. Torres



Intern
Christopher Vallejo



Council Rep & Policy Advisor
Matt Yagyagan