



Councilmember Georgette Gómez

District 9 Digest

November 2018

Mission: To engage, empower, and advocate for our diverse communities

Vision: An equitable and welcoming community with a high quality of life where all are fairly represented and treated with dignity and respect.

Dear District Nine Residents,

I am working for a better quality of life for our communities. However, too often, the issues San Diego faces are presented as a conflict where if one side wins, the other loses, leading to inaction. Instead we must be courageous enough to struggle through the usual divisions and find a way forward.

This past month was a real example of what can be achieved by coming together.

Environment and the Economy

City Approves Community Choice Aggregation/Energy

I have supported the City giving residents a choice in energy providers as a path to meeting our Climate Action Plan goals of 100% renewable energy sources by 2035, having more local control over the energy sources used, while lowering costs to residents.


Citywide Polystyrene and Single-Use Plastics Ban Passes

I voted to pass a Citywide ban on polystyrene and single-use plastics that included my amendment for an automatic one-year exemption for small businesses to allow time to successfully transition to alternatives.



Announcing Community Choice Aggregation/Energy with Mayor Faulconer, Assemblymember Gloria, and local business leaders.

Roads and Transit

 As Chair of the Metropolitan Transit System, I'm working to build momentum around a vision of mobility in our region that makes public transit a real choice by providing better opportunities while reducing pollution. As I wrote in Voice of San Diego on October 17, in "[Roads and Public Transit Aren't Competitors](#)", experience has shown that San Diegans want a real choice when deciding how to move throughout their day.

"It's simply not true that roads and public transit are competing against each other for funds. Great cities are ones that do both well."



Housing Crisis and Homelessness

MTS Board Unanimously Approves Affordable Housing at Trolley Stations

MTS passed my policy to prioritize the development of affordable housing in underutilized parking lots at trolley stations.

Council Districts Partner with Business, Nonprofits, and County on Homeless Outreach Social Workers

My office is providing resources to pilot homeless outreach get homeless residents the help they need to overcome issues that lead to homelessness.

City Council Unanimously Agrees on Permanent Supportive Housing in All Council Districts

The City Council unanimously passed a resolution to move forward on placing permanent supportive housing for our most vulnerable residents in every Council District.

Connecting with our Parks & Natural Environment

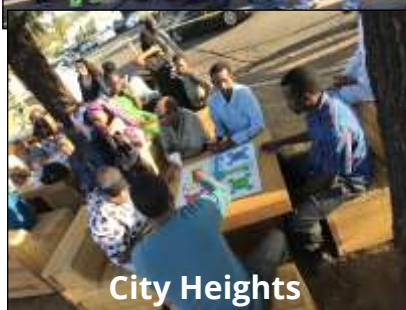
Herencia Hispana Festival at Southcrest Park

I celebrated this 6th year of the Festival by proclaiming October 14, 2018, Herencia Hispana Day in the City of San Diego. A few hundred residents and visitors came to the Herencia Hispana Festival in Southcrest Park to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. The Festival has been drawing more attendees every year and my office helped the Festival find a new home at Southcrest Park by providing assistance with permitting and coordination with the City of San Diego.



50th Street Gathering Space Opening and Cleanup

Placemaking is a new, exciting tool for our neighborhoods to create spaces to come together. City Heights became one of the first communities to benefit under the City's new placemaking ordinance with the opening of the 50th Street Gathering Space, at 50th Street and University Avenue. The Space honors the cultures of the East African homelands of the residents in City Heights with Lahdu game tables, a camel shaped bike rack, and new wall mural across the street.



Prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony, my office joined with City Heights CDC and the City Heights Business Association to sponsor a community cleanup. Neighbors overwhelmingly responded by bringing bulky items like mattresses and couches to the two large dumpsters our office provided, cleaning up alleyways and yards.

Celebrating Our Environment: Cleaning Up and Restoring Chollas Creek

I am happy to report a new initiative to cleanup and restore Chollas Creek. The creek runs through the heart of the southern communities of District Nine and is home to many species protected under Federal law. While this makes Chollas Creek special, it also presents challenges to maintaining it. Maintaining the creek requires multiple permits and special coordination with the City and the permission of adjacent property owners. In the past, this complexity has resulted in negative impacts to the creek and to residents living near the creek.

However, my office has brought the various groups together to address maintaining Chollas Creek. I started with bringing the Mayor's Chief of Staff and the Director of the Environmental Services Department on a tour of Chollas Creek, for the first time in years. A plan has been created to coordinate the work of the City's Environmental Services and Transportation and Storm Water Departments, the San Diego Police Department, the nonprofits Groundworks and Urban Corps, and my office, to maintain the Creek. The first phase will begin in the Southcrest Trails portion of the Creek and move inland to address quality of life issues. Then the second phase will set the foundation for the restoration of Chollas Creek for the enjoyment of residents.



Connecting with the Community

Good Neighbors in the College Area

Strong neighborhoods come out of building relationships between people. My office canvassed door to door in the College Area in October, visiting nearly 200 homes, and sharing information with new residents about how to be good neighbors. We reminded everyone to please park in designated areas and not block sidewalks, to be considerate about noise, to clean up trash and to put trash cans out of view after pickup, and to be safe drivers, whether in a car or on a scooter. Responses from those visited were that as the school year has progressed, concerns have been addressed and new residents thanked us for clarifying neighborhood rules. The College Area Community Council is creating an outreach committee to contact residents about possible violations so they have an opportunity to address them prior to being reported to the City or Police.



Taking the Trolley to canvass the College Area



City Heights

Welcoming the Ocean Discovery Institute Living Lab to City Heights.



City Heights

Speaking to Crawford High and San Diego State University students about the importance of civic participation.



City Heights

City Heights residents, Assemblymember Todd Gloria, & local advocacy groups calling for equitable implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan.



Talmadge

Thanking the volunteers & proclaiming October 13, Talmadge Block Party Day in the City of San Diego.



Talmadge

Celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Dojo Café at Fair @ 44th.



City Heights

Serving as Ringmaster for the Fern Street Circus at Teralta Park.



Kensington

Speaking at the Kensington Talmadge Community Association meeting.

Councilmember Georgette Gómez: Inspiring the Next Generation

Barbara Ledesma, Sanna Stolpe, Leslit Velela Fierro, and Valeria Sanchez

Proud to welcome:



Barbara Ledesma is a 4th year student at UC San Diego and is double-majoring in Political Science and Urban Studies & Planning. Inspired by the TV show Parks & Recreation, she wants to work in local government to help historically underrepresented and underserved communities.



Sanna Stolpe is a recent graduate at San Diego State University, where she earned her Master's Degree in Political Science. She is originally from Sweden and is very passionate about sustainability, women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights.



Leslit Velela Fierro is currently studying at San Diego State University, in pursuit of her Bachelor's Degree in Sustainability, with a minor in Italian. Her family is originally from Acapulco, Mexico and enjoys the outdoors, as well as reading fantasy books.



Valería Sanchez is a Clairemont High School senior expanding her communications and social justice skills through her internship with our office. She produces public service announcements on issues to educate her classmates and is contemplating a career in criminal justice advocacy.

Your District 9 Community Representatives:



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