



# Council President Georgette Gómez

**June 2019**

**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 represented and treated with dignity and respect.

Dear District Nine Residents,

In this newsletter, I'm proud to share my work with you on:

- Leading on policies to increase production of affordable housing in San Diego, to preserve the affordable housing we already have, and protect residents who use rental assistance.
- Facilitating increased participation in discussions about the City Budget by bringing meetings into our communities and making the meetings at City Hall more accessible.
- Creating a shared vision of transit for San Diego to make transit more efficient, reliable, and affordable so that it is a real choice for all San Diegans as they move throughout their day.
- Strengthening and beautifying our communities through community cleanups and bringing City departments, state and federal agencies, and community organizations together to care for our District Nine natural resources.

I invite you to read this month's newsletter and to reach out to me via email, phone, your Council Representatives, and at my office hours in the community.

In Solidarity,



Chairing the Rules Committee Inclusionary Housing Ordinance Update.



Hosting the District Nine Budget Town Hall.



With Navy Bootcamp Volunteers at the District Nine Southcrest Trails

# Preserving Affordable Housing

## City Council Approves Financing to Renovate District Nine Senior Housing

In April, the San Diego City Council approved bond financing to renovate both the interior and exterior of the Wesley Terrace Apartments in Talmadge.

Wesley Terrace has been home to low-income seniors since its construction in 1973. This decision by the City Council preserves the affordability of these apartments for another 55 years.

### Wesley Terrace details

- 161 studio and one-bedroom apartments
- Library, community kitchen, and computer lab
- On-site support staff
- Affordable to seniors at (2018 income thresholds):
  - 50% Annual Median Income (at or below \$34,100)
  - 60% Annual Median Income (at or below \$40,920)

Each apartment, the shared spaces, and the exterior of the building will all be upgraded beginning this Fall and expected completion is the end of 2020, with no displacement of current residents.



# Leadership on Source of Income Wins Award

## Council President Gómez Recognized for Affordable Housing Advocacy



In May, I was honored to be recognized by the Pacific Southwest Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (PSWRC-NAHRO) with its "In Appreciation" award for my work in 2018 on the City of San Diego's Source of Income Ordinance. Last

year, the City Council passed my proposed ordinance barring landlords from rejecting applicants for rental housing because they use rental subsidies, like Section 8.

The award recognizes "an elected or appointed official who demonstrated excellence as an advocate of housing programs by providing consistent support of housing activities, and developing and promoting financial, political and community support of housing."

I hope that receiving this award at the annual conference of PSWRC-NAHRO inspires other cities to enact similar ordinances to protect their residents receiving rental assistance.

Thank you to the San Diego Housing Commission for nominating this work for recognition.

*"All we are asking is that landlords allow Section 8 to apply and to evaluate (recipients) in the same way as any other applicant." - Council President Georgette Gómez*

### Resources

For more information or for affordable housing assistance, contact the San Diego Housing Commission at (619) 578-7553

For legal help with housing discrimination contact the Legal Aid Society of San Diego at (800) 735-2929.

# District Nine FY2020 Budget Town Hall & Next Steps

## Council President Gómez Continues Long-Standing Advocacy for Communities in the City Budget

In May, the City Council spent seven days hearing department-by-department details of the Mayor's Proposed FY2020 Budget. Thank you to everyone that came to the meetings to share your vision for their communities.

Before I was elected to the City Council, I advocated for evening meetings to be added to the budget process to provide more opportunities for residents to participate. Since being elected, I have continued to advocate for even more evening meetings. We now have two evening meetings and they have been very well attended, which helped me define priorities.

On May 9th, I hosted a District Nine Budget Town Hall with the City's Independent Budget Analyst, Andrea Tevlin, and her staff, at the City Heights Performance Annex. Nearly 100 residents learned more about the budget process, the Mayor's Proposed Budget, and my budget priorities. My priorities include:

- Maximize opportunities that support affordable housing and create well-paying jobs.
- Prioritize investments in communities that need them the most.
- Ensure that City projects deliver concrete community and environmental benefits and meet our Climate Action Plan goals.

On May 14th, the Mayor released his May Revise to his FY2020 Proposed Budget. On May 20th, my office and other Councilmembers submitted our recommended changes to the Mayor's Proposed Budget for consideration as his staff prepare the final budget proposal.

Join us for the June 10th City Council meeting as the Council considers the changes to the Mayor's FY2020 Proposed Budget. The meeting is at 2:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers on the 12th Floor of City Hall.



## Coffee with Your Councilmember

**Wed., June 12, 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Mountain View Rec Center  
641 S. Boundary Street  
San Diego, CA 92105

**RSVP:** Gloria Cardenas  
GCardenas@sandiego.gov  
(619) 236-6681

**Wed., June 26, 3:00-4:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Dojo Café  
4350 El Cajon Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92105

**RSVP:** Sanna Loando  
SLoando@sandiego.gov  
(619) 533-4774



# Strengthening and Beautifying Our Communities

## Annual I Love a Clean San Diego Creek to Bay Cleanup Day in District Nine

The last weekend in April was the I Love a Clean San Diego Annual Creek to Bay Cleanup Day. I hosted well-attended cleanups in three communities: Southcrest, City Heights, and the College Area.

Chollas Creek begins in City Heights, 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. My office has brought various groups together to address maintaining Chollas Creek and progress is being made, as can be seen in the photos from September 2018 and April 2019.



After: Chollas Creek, 2019



Before: Chollas Creek, 2018



Southcrest Trails Park cleanup.



City Heights cleanup at Rosa Parks Elementary.



College Area cleanup with SDSU Associated Students Campus Community Commission.

## Celebrating the Diversity of District Nine & San Diego



Discussing free youth transit passes with MidCity CAN Youth at my community office hours.



Bringing the "Neuter Scooter" to Southcrest and Mountain View to provide low-cost spay and neuter services for pets in our communities.



Dining Out For Life at Ponce's in Kensington with San Diego LGBT Community Center's CEO, Cara Dessert, to support The Center's programs for all San Diegans.



Congratulating the graduates of the MidCity CAN Resident Leadership Institute.



Celebrating Bike to Work Day with the College Area BID.



Discussing improving safe mobility options at the workshop on the Orange Avenue Bikeway.

# Increasing Production of Affordable Housing

## Council Committee Recommends Adoption of Council President Gómez's Updates to Inclusionary Housing Regulations

In May, the City's Rules Committee recommended to the City Council the approval of my proposal to update the City's Inclusionary Affordable Housing Regulations. I am bringing these changes forward since the lack of affordable housing is a significant problem in San Diego.

What this proposal will do is require that when a developer builds a new residential or mixed use project, that the project will include at least 10 percent of the housing units as affordable on site or use other methods of compliance to ensure there is more affordable housing available within the community.

Currently, the City requires a developer to pay a fee rather than build the units onsite. That fee does not come close to covering the cost to build a new affordable housing unit and it has resulted in fewer than 3,000 affordable housing units being built over the past decade.

My proposed update requires that 10% of the units to be built within the new development be affordable at 50% Area Median Income or below, which means that a family of four whose income is \$48,650 can qualify for a new unit. The proposal also nearly doubles the current in-lieu fee so that the developer has greater incentive to build the units, or if they pay the fee, the amount paid builds more affordable units.

When passed later this summer, these new regulations are expected to increase the production of affordable housing which will result in many more San Diegans being able to have a clean, safe and affordable home.



Chief of Policy, Lara Gates, presenting the proposed updates to the Inclusionary Ordinance at the Rules Committee, May 15.

***"This is an important step in developing more affordable housing at prices that San Diegans can truly afford. Inclusionary housing is one of many tools to incentivize development of affordable housing and we need to use all of them. I identified this as one of seven initiatives in my Housing Action Plan in 2017 and I am pleased that we are moving forward as a City to provide real ways to answer the housing challenges of our region." - Council President Georgette Gómez .***

# Creating a Shared Vision of Transit for San Diego

## Beginning the Public Participation Process to Create a Shared Vision of Transit for San Diego

As the Chair of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), I welcomed dozens of our San Diego community organizations to the first meeting of the Community Advisory Committee for ElevateSD2020, the robust public participation plan to create a shared vision of transit for San Diego now and in the future.

Over the next several months, you'll have a chance to engage with representatives of MTS at public workshops, telephone town halls, pop-up events at transit stations and other public venues, and online surveys and forums. Simultaneously there will be numerous working groups representing diverse regional stakeholders.

All the information about Elevate San Diego events, meetings and other public input opportunities can be found at [www.ElevateSD2020.com](http://www.ElevateSD2020.com).



MTS Chair Gómez welcomes community organizations and touches on the impact of climate changes and a need to do things differently saying, ***"Transit is at the core of those potential changes for our region."***



# Resources and Events

## Community Office Hours

Schedule an appointment or drop-in at my community office hours.

### **To schedule an appointment:**

Email Brenda Lugo at [BLugo@sanidiego.gov](mailto:BLugo@sanidiego.gov) or call (619) 236-6699

**When:** Every Friday, 2:30 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

**Where:** **City Heights Rec. Center**  
4380 Landis St.,  
San Diego, CA 92105

**When:** **Saturday, June 15,**  
**9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.**

**Where:** **City Heights Farmers Market**  
4325 Wightman St.,  
San Diego, CA 92105



## Community Cleanups

**Sat., June 8, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

**Location:** **Ridgeview Community**  
2614 Bailey Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92105

**For info:** Anna Medina  
[AOchoaMedina@sanidiego.gov](mailto:AOchoaMedina@sanidiego.gov)  
(619) 236-7042

**Tues., June 11, 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** **Azalea Park & Hollywood Park**  
Leave items at curb

**For info:** Anna Medina  
[AOchoaMedina@sanidiego.gov](mailto:AOchoaMedina@sanidiego.gov)  
(619) 236-7042

**Sat., June 29, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Location:** **College Area**  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
5075 Campanile Dr,  
San Diego, CA 92115

**For info:** Sanna Loando  
[SLoando@sanidiego.gov](mailto:SLoando@sanidiego.gov)  
(619) 533-4774

## Your District 9 Community Representatives:



**Gloria Cruz**

**(619) 236-6681**

**[GCardenas@sanidiego.gov](mailto:GCardenas@sanidiego.gov)**

Mount Hope, Mountain View, Southcrest,



**Sanna Loando**

**(619) 533-4774**

**[SLoando@sanidiego.gov](mailto:SLoando@sanidiego.gov)**

Alvarado Estates, College Area,  
College View Estates, Kensington,  
Talmadge



**Anna Medina**

**(619) 236-7042**

**[AOchoaMedina@sanidiego.gov](mailto:AOchoaMedina@sanidiego.gov)**

Azalea Park, Castle, Cherokee Point,  
Fairmount Village, Swan Canyon,  
Mountain View, Ridgeview, Bayridge,  
Fairmount Park,



**Christopher**

**"Stopher" Vallejo**

**619-236-6725**

**[CVallejo@sanidiego.gov](mailto:CVallejo@sanidiego.gov)**

El Cerrito, Rolando Village, Colina Park,  
Corridor, Teralta - East & West, Chollas  
Creek, Fox Canyon, Islenair

## Contact Us:

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## Stay Connected:



[www.sanidiego.gov/cd9](http://www.sanidiego.gov/cd9)



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