



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT GEORGETTE GÓMEZ
NINTH DISTRICT**

As President of the San Diego City Council, I am committed to working collaboratively with the Mayor, my Council colleagues, City operations leaders, and partners at local agencies and nonprofit organizations to make sure San Diego is prepared not only to slow the spread of this coronavirus, but also to protect and assist those residents in our community who are affected by the pandemic.

We must do all we can to protect residents who are forced to stay home from work because they are sick or need to care for a loved one, as well as workers in industries such as local tourism and hospitality that have seen a dramatic slowdown in business. This means protecting them from evictions, power and water shutoffs, and parking tickets if they can't pay their bills. This also means providing assistance to small businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The City of San Diego must be a model employer and protect our workers, as well as the public. This includes ensuring a sturdy safety net for our employees, and limiting exposure to possible infection at City-owned facilities and City-sponsored events, including adjusting our public meeting schedule, as needed.

We must ensure that our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness are protected, and that members of our immigrant communities have access to healthcare and services without fear.

I will present further details on these measures to protect employees and our communities in the coming days.

I call on everyone to be part of the response to the crisis. Follow directions from county and state health officials. Wash your hands often and vigorously. Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or sleeves. Practice social distancing. Stay home if you experience cold or flu symptoms, and stay clear of others who do. Avoid gatherings. And take care to protect friends and family members who are elderly or have underlying health conditions; make sure they have everything they need if the situation locally worsens.

We must not panic, but we must be ready. Make sure your family has adequate food and household supplies for two weeks, but do not hoard.

At a personal level, times like these can cause anxiety. Reach out to those who are vulnerable. Let's work together and take care of each other.