



Need Help Finding Resources? The County's 2-1-1 System can help, in many languages. Call 211 on your phone or visit <https://211sandiego.org/>  
 For City of San Diego COVID-19 updates, visit: <https://www.sandiego.gov/coronavirus>

Dear San Diego Residents,

Good news! Last week Governor Newsom announced more assistance and protections to keep Californians safe:

- The creation of a relief fund to assist California's undocumented residents who have been left out of other aid packages. This assistance will be available through local nonprofits later this month.
- All Californians who work in our food supply sectors - from farmworkers, to those working in grocery stores, restaurants, and who deliver our food - are now entitled to two weeks paid leave due to COVID. Also, all food-related workplaces will be required to provide greater protections for workers such as the ability to wash their hands every 30 minutes and be able to keep six feet of physical distance from others.

You may remember that earlier this month I urged him to take these actions and now more of our neighbors are getting help during this pandemic crisis. We are all in this together and we must take care of each other.

Last week, I sent a letter to Governor Newsom, urging him to help Baja California with personal protective equipment (PPE) and other necessary equipment. COVID-19 knows no borders, and San Diego and Tijuana share a bi-national mega-region.

**Last week**, the City Council continued to respond to the COVID-19 emergency:

- We extended our state of emergency in San Diego for another 30 days.
- We provided additional relief to our business community by deferring fees for businesses that are required to have permits filed with the Police Department, and automatically renewing permits that are set to expire.
- And we amended rules for community planning groups that hold their elections in March. Many of these groups were unable to hold their annual elections in March because of the emergency - so we revised the process for how and when those elections will proceed.



Council President Gómez attended the virtual monthly meeting of the El Cerrito Community Council on Thursday, April 16.

**Our next meeting** is tomorrow, Tuesday, [April 21](#) - and it will largely devoted to the city budget.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a budget crisis for the city that will require extremely difficult decisions.

The Mayor has released a [proposed budget](#) that gives is a starting point for this process. He will formally present the budget to the Council next week's meeting.

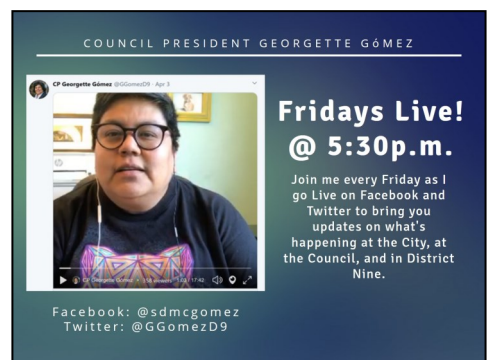
That begins a process that will include [several hearings](#) for you to make your voice heard. In normal times, this would involve the opportunity for you to talk to us in person. Unfortunately, we can't do that this year - but we will make sure you can provide input. We want to know what your priorities are.

Working with Budget Committee Chair Barbara Bry, and all of my colleagues, I intend to create an environment of full transparency and as we work cooperatively with the Mayor, the public, and our City employees to create the best possible path forward given the circumstances.

For a easy-to-read overview of the items being heard at Council read [The People's Business](#).

**Every Friday**, join me on Twitter and Facebook for a Live update at 5:30 in English and 5:45 in Spanish.

In Solidarity,



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