



Office of Council President

Georgette Gómez

UPDATE
Oct 27, 2020, Pg. 1

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 District Nine Residents,

October has been an important month for continuing to take care of each other during the COVID-19 pandemic. Continue to cover your face, stay six feet apart, and wash your hands. Also, I urge you to get your flu shot. Every year, hospitals see a large increase in patients needing help because of the flu.

In this update, learn more about:

- How the City Council is helping address San Diego's housing affordability issues now and for the future.
- Safe community events.
- How to connect with and support your neighbors.

UPDATES: RECENT COUNCIL VOTES

In 2017, I developed a [Housing Action Plan](#) to make it easier to build more housing that is affordable, protect the affordability of existing housing, and to help San Diegans find housing and stay housed. Over the last four years, I have worked diligently to get each of those policies approved by the City Council and implemented to make a real difference in the lives of residents. This month, my Council colleagues supported further action. By the end of this year, I'm proud to say that I will have achieved the vision to create the comprehensive approach to housing and homelessness set forth in my Housing Action Plan.

"This is a comprehensive approach to expanding access to affordable homes," Council President Georgette Gómez said. "I am extremely proud of what this Council has accomplished."

• **Council Expands Person-Centered Outreach to Unsheltered San Diegans**

October 27, the City Council voted unanimously to build on a successful pilot program that uses case managers to forge relationships with unsheltered residents and connect them with permanent housing and social services.

The new Coordinated Street Outreach Program will be funded from a \$1.5-million budget allocation that Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe and I fought for during this year's budget negotiations. The new initiative effectively takes a pilot program that Councilmember Chris Ward and I partnered on in City Heights and North Park and expands it to other neighborhoods.

Up to now, street outreach has often been left to police officers. However, some unsheltered residents are uncomfortable with encounters with law enforcement. The Coordinated Street Outreach Program offers a new paradigm. [Watch the press conference.](#)



PATH Outreach Specialist Jesse Angeles and San Diegans Philip Martell and Theresa Julya shared their success story at a press conference in support of the Person-Centered Outreach program.

"Today, the City Council took a big step forward in how we create meaningful relationships with residents living on the streets and connect them with permanent homes and the services they need to stay housed," Gómez said. "We've seen from our pilot project in Mid-City that this model – using case managers rather than police officers to establish trust with vulnerable residents – really works. This program is a critical piece of our much-improved and better-coordinated effort to reduce the number of unsheltered San Diegans."

• **Preserving Housing for Vulnerable Residents**

October 27, the City Council approved a set of initial strategies to preserve San Diego's existing inventory of affordable housing – both naturally occurring affordable housing and subsidized affordable housing. The strategies emerged from a landmark study – [Preserving Affordable Housing in the City of San Diego](#) – released last past May by the Housing Commission responding to a request by me.

The approved strategies include redirecting funds originally associated with the City's Redevelopment Agency to fund preservation, adopt a Preservation Ordinance to strengthen and expand the rights granted by state preservation notice law, offering incentives to owners of unrestricted properties in exchange for affordability restrictions, providing seed funding to create a public-private Affordable Housing Preservation Fund, and creating an interagency preservation working group.

• **Increasing Rental Assistance Funding and Transforming Hotels Into Permanent Supportive Housing**

October 13, the City Council unanimously :

- Approved using an additional \$5 million in funding from the federal CARES Act to provide relief for San Diego renters struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Authorized the San Diego Housing Commission to purchase two hotels, which will be transformed permanently into 332 apartments with supportive services for unsheltered San Diegans.

• **Using Surplus City-owned Land to Create More Affordable Housing**

October 20, the City Council approved the sale of a piece of City-owned land on Cortez Hill in Downtown to Community HousingWorks, an affordable-housing developer that plans to demolish the existing building and replace it with 75 - 110 apartments priced as affordable for low-income residents.

Stay informed about what's coming to City Council and Council Committees by following "[The People's Business](#)" or the [City Clerk website](#).



Office of Council President

Georgette Gómez

UPDATE
Oct 27, 2020, Pg. 2

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>

UPDATES: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD. VOTE!

- Tuesday, November 3 is **election day**. You can drop-off your ballot at all City of San Diego Public Library locations from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday - Saturday and from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, 11/3.

Find information about voter registration, polling locations, ballot drop-off locations, and how the state of California is making sure that everyone can "Vote Safer San Diego" by visiting the San Diego County Registrar of Voters website: <https://www.sdvote.com/>.



SAFE COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Celebrate Halloween and honor Día de los Muertos safely. California and the County of San Diego have created [recommended guidelines](#).

HALLOWEEN

- Leaving individually wrapped goodie bags out front
- Showing off your costume in a neighborhood car parade
- Creating an at-home candy hunt

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

- Consider placing and creating your altar in a front window or outside so others can view from a safe social distance.
 - Create a virtual space to honor lost loved ones. Share with family and friends via email or social media.
 - If you visit the cemetery, only visit with those you live with, wear masks and maintain appropriate social distancing. Limit time spent to minimum necessary.
- GRAB A TREAT WITH THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND REC DEPARTMENT:**
 - Wed., Oct. 28, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
City Heights Recreation Center (drive up)
4380 Landis St.
 - Fri., Oct. 30, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**
Mountain View Recreation Center
641 So. Boundary St.



- VISIT THE HAUNTED LIBRARY MURAL FOR A FREE TOUCHLESS SOUVENIR PHOTO:**
 - Thurs., Oct. 29, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
City Heights Library
3795 Fairmount Ave.

SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORS

- The first Friday of every month, support local restaurants by enjoying a taste of Vietnamese street food with late night outdoor dining from a selection of restaurants in Little Saigon.
- Connect with your neighbors by joining them for regular community cleanups:
 - The [Kensington Litter Pickers](#) and the [Talmadge Litter Pickers](#) meet the first Sunday of every month.
 - The residents of the El Cajon Boulevard East End meet every Wednesday, 8:30-9:45 at 5005 El Cajon Boulevard.



In Solidarity,

Your District 9 Community Representatives:

Gloria Cruz

(619) 236-6681

GCardenas@saniego.gov

Mount Hope, Mountain View, Southcrest,

Jasmine Mallen

(619) 236-7042

JMallen@saniego.gov

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

Sanna Loando

(619) 533-4774

SLoando@saniego.gov

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

Christopher "Stopher" Vallejo

619-236-6725

CVallejo@saniego.gov

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

Contact Us:

(619) 236-6699

georgettegomez@saniego.gov

Stay Connected:

www.sandiego.gov/cd9

@GGomezD9

facebook.com/sdcmgomez