



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER MONICA MONTGOMERY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 10, 2020

TO: Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods

FROM: Councilmember Monica Montgomery, Chair, Committee on Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods

SUBJECT: 2020 Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee Priorities & Work Plan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Monica Montgomery".

As Chair the City Council's Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee it is my distinct honor to share the 2020 Work Plan for this crucial committee. I look forward to working closely with my fellow Councilmembers to enact meaningful change across the City, especially in our most vulnerable communities. I have outlined numerous priorities for this committee to consider in the upcoming year, including many suggestions from committee members, and welcome continuous input and feedback from committee members in the months to come.

The following priority goals for 2020 include, but are not limited to the following:

POLICE

Community Oriented Policing

The Committee should receive periodic updates from SDPD detailing their current community policing policies, strategies, and effectiveness. In addition, the Committee must take steps to further define "Community-Oriented Policing" and establish policies that achieve the true spirit of this approach. Each neighborhood has unique needs and there should be a collaborative process, that includes the community, in defining what public safety means and what role police play. Police should form partnerships broadly with community stakeholders and should develop solutions to public safety problems through collaborative problem-solving. It is imperative that we continue to invest resources to expand policing alternatives that deter officers from using force, promote de-escalation tactics, and to continue to build the trust and relationships between our residents and police officers. The Committee should continue to explore opportunities for partnerships between SDPD, community leaders, faith organizations, and grassroots organizations.

Campaign Zero, Evaluating Policing in San Diego

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) is responsible for keeping the city safe. The public should be able to trust that when a police officer stops a person, they are doing so for a legitimate and justifiable reason. The Campaign Zero, Evaluating Policing in San Diego report recently released further supports findings included in the 2016 SDSU report commissioned by the city that local law enforcement disproportionately stops, questions, searches and uses force against Black, Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander people. I would like the committee to engage the Campaign Zero team to bring forward their report and discuss key recommendations, including but not limited to, expanding alternatives to arrest for low-level offenses, banning the use of consent searches and limiting discretionary stops, banning the use of carotid restraints/strangleholds, strengthening enforcement of the racial profiling ban and use data to inform interventions to hold police officers accountable, strengthening community oversight to ensure accountability. The committee should continue to work with stakeholders, and develop fair and impartial policies that encourage officers to focus on public safety for all residents. In addition, the committee should receive updates on SDPD's training metrics and impacts to ensure the effectiveness and officer accountability.

Credible Messenger Program

San Diego has seen a rise in gang violence across the City over the past year. The Committee should explore options to implement a Credible Messenger Program which would encourage former gang members to mitigate potential violence in the community and promote peace throughout all neighborhoods. As an innovative restorative justice program to engage justice-involved community members, the program would aim to not only stop violence before it starts, but to also enhance public safety, decrease recidivism and provide meaningful social service interventions.

De-escalation Policy and Training for the San Diego Police Department

De-escalation strategies are a critical tool for all law enforcement officers who, on a regular basis, must interact with individuals who are behaving aggressively or may be suffering from mental illness or substance abuse. Currently in the San Diego Police Department's (SDPD) policy manual, there is no de-escalation policy. By formally adopting a de-escalation policy and providing ongoing de-escalation training for officers, SDPD can help ensure the safety of both officers and the public. The Committee should receive a report from the Chief of Police on the Department's proposed de-escalation policy, training and how the Department intends to expand its investment in this training to implement the new policy once approved.

Restorative Justice and Reconciliation Opportunities

The Committee should prioritize funding and staffing resources for an expanded community court program that will emphasize opportunities for restorative justice programs. Restorative justice can begin repairing the harm that is caused from criminal behavior, and can lead to fundamental change in people, relationships, and communities. While the community court approach is an innovative way of handling low level misdemeanors and provides participants of the program the opportunity to complete community service as an alternative to serving time, emphasizing restorative justice practices can provide a moral component that focuses on repairing the harm caused by the crime and reducing future harm through crime prevention.

Comprehensive Citywide Surveillance Ordinance

While we now live in a technological era, we must ensure that proper oversight is in place to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of our residents. The Committee should work to develop oversight mechanisms that include notification of any plans by any City Department, including San Diego Police Department, to acquire and deploy tools that have surveillance capabilities in our communities. In addition, any City Department that is able to acquire these tools should be prepared to submit annual use policies and all plans for data sharing, as well as a comprehensive annual report on the impact of the tools, as well as receive feedback from members of the public. Finally, the Committee should receive a presentation from city staff that details the current smart streetlight contract with General Electric and associated revisions.

Increased Engagement with the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

The Committee should receive periodic updates from the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention to better monitor efforts and results at curtailing the negative impacts of gang violence, and particularly how the Commission plans to collaborate with social service providers. In addition, the committee should review the structure and resources allocated to the commission to ensure the commission has the resources and tools to better achieve its objectives. In 2019, the Commission's Biannual Report included a recommendation to remove all gang injunctions within the City of San Diego. Injunctions do not address the root problems of crime and violence, rather they can be used as an overly-broad discretion to label people as gang members without having to present any evidence or even charge someone with a crime. The Committee should take action on this recommendation, as these injunctions impose restrictions on the daily lives of those who have either been mistakenly identified as a gang member or have turned their lives around in a positive way.

Increased Engagement with the Citizens Advisory Board on Police/Community Police Relations

The Committee will increase engagement with the Citizens Advisory Board on Police/Community Relations to seek proactive measures to reform policy and improve SDPD and Community relations. The Commission's Executive Director should ensure that the Commission provides semiannual reports and annual written report to the Committee and closely monitor the City's implementation of recommendations and outcomes as they are developed and approved.

Diversity in Recruitment and Retention for First Responders and Law Enforcement

The City should provide additional resources and take the necessary steps to encourage diversity in the recruitment and retention of our First Responder and Law Enforcement programs. As we continue to talk about building trust in our vulnerable communities, a key factor is diversifying these forces in order to reflect all of the communities they serve. The City should also continue to explore incentive programs like low-cost housing, which would not only encourage our First Responders and Law Enforcement officers to live in the community, but could also assist with low retention rates across the board. The Committee should receive updates from both SDPD and Fire-Rescue on these efforts.

Ensuring the sustainability and transition of the Family Justice Center (FJC)

Last year, the FJC transitioned from SDPD to the City Attorney's Office. The Committee should receive an update from the FJC regarding the transition and advocate for the necessary resources to ensure the FJC continues to provide the highest quality of service to victims of domestic violence.

Continued Implementation and Monitoring of AB 953

Monitoring of AB 953 (Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015): The Committee should receive prompt updates on the process of the analyzation of the data collected under the Racial and Identity Profiling Act, as well as information and recommendations from the Center for Policing Equity, who was recently hired by San Diego Police Department to analyze their collected data. With recent findings of discriminatory policing by Campaign Zero, it is crucial that the Committee receives updates on any racial bias complaints and the outcomes of such complaints, as well as the action taken by SDPD to mitigate racial biases.

Human Trafficking, Red Light Abatement, Massage Parlor Permitting

Human trafficking continues to be an issue throughout the country, particularly right here in San Diego. Last year, our office worked with the San Diego Police Department, the City Attorney's office, and anti-human trafficking advocates to require massage establishments to obtain police permits and bring local massage establishment regulations in-line with state-wide best practices as recommended by the California Massage Therapy Council. The changes passed last year provide the San Diego Police Department and the City Attorney's office with the necessary tools to hold bad operators accountable, shut down massage establishments engaging in human trafficking, and protect victims of human trafficking. The Committee should receive updates on the implementation of the new regulations and explore additional ways the City can provide additional resources to victims of human trafficking.

Enforcement of the Barrio Logan Truck Route

The Committee should receive an update from the SDPD regarding the enforcement plan for the revised Barrio Logan Truck Route

FIRE-RESCUE

Resource Access Program and Emergency Medical Response

The City saw success with the reimplemention of the Resource Access Program (RAP) last year, as 87% of those who called were connected to ongoing mental health services. Because the pilot scope of practice under which RAP operated expired in November 2019, the Committee should receive an update in order to determine what assistance is necessary to continue the program and explore options that will restore the program to the level of success that was seen in 2019.

Citygate Studies Update

In 2019, the Committee received an update from Fire-Rescue on the Citygate Associates studies. This included four recent studies that covered various recommendations for operational needs, including: a Standards of Response Coverage (review in 2011 and 2017), an Emergency Command & Data Center capability and needs assessment, an 911 ambulance services oversight analysis, and an evaluation of our all-risk maritime response capabilities. The Committee should receive an update on these studies in order to track the progress of these recommendations and advocate for priority needs addressed in the reports.

Girls Empowerment Camp

San Diego Fire-Rescue and the City launched the Girls Empowerment Camp to introduce and expose teens to careers in public safety. The Committee should receive an update from Fire-Rescue in order to determine the level of support needed to continue the program and expand upon the number of participants each year, especially in our underserved communities.

HOMELESSNESS

Monitoring Homelessness Strategic Plan, Data Management System, and other Homeless Services

The City has invested millions of dollars over the years to provide services for our homeless population. Services are vital to assist those who are without shelter. Therefore, it is imperative that the City take a comprehensive approach to this crisis. The City should consistently monitor progress on the regional plan from the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, as well as monitor homeless management data systems so that those in databases can receive wrap-around services in a timely manner and allow for coordination and collaboration from various agencies. In addition, the Committee should receive a progress update on the recommended actions and strategies that have been proposed in the Community Action Plan on Homelessness by the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Updates on the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

The Homeless Outreach Team has played a key role in reaching individuals that are experiencing homelessness, and responding to calls throughout San Diego. The Committee should hear updates from SDPD to track the progress of the team, and work to gather additional information to determine what additional resources may be needed to expand this program to all hours in order to achieve higher levels of service.

Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT)

The City has seen success with the PERT program, as 20 clinicians were added to the team in 2019. These licensed mental health providers accompany both the Homeless Outreach Team and officers on their patrols, and have the expertise that is needed to assist in mental health emergencies that are occur across the City. Given the crucial role that these clinicians play, The Committee should receive updates from SDPD on progress of the program and advocate for any resources that will help its expansion.

Safe Parking Program / Vehicle Habitation Ordinance

Homelessness continues to be a crisis in San Diego. The City has a responsibility to provide safe, clean, and healthy neighborhoods for all residents, without criminalizing individuals for living in their cars due to lack of available housing. While the Safe Parking Program was created to provide safety and a pathway for those who are looking to access robust services that will lead to permanent housing, we must emphasize the need for progressive enforcement to that encourages and connects people to the program. The Committee should receive updates on this program, its enforcement efforts, and how the City is working to partner with organizations that can offer similar services.

LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

SB 107, approved in 2015, provides substantial reform of the redevelopment wind-down process and ensures that San Diego will properly receive CDBG repayment/recovery of nearly \$240 million. The City should ensure that funds are reinvested in San Diego's economically disadvantaged communities in the form of infrastructure investment, job creation and economic development. Therefore, the City should ensure that CDBG funds are reinvested in San Diego's economically disadvantaged communities in the form of housing, infrastructure investment, job creation and economic development. The Committee should receive regular updates from Economic Development Department.

Park and Recreation Equity Funding

In 2019, the Committee received a presentation from the Parks and Recreation Department that outlined their proposed fiscal year budget for Recreation Center Funds. This funding is crucial, as it covers recreational programs and events at parks across the city, as well as maintains facilities. However, the Committee learned of the large disparity in regards to funding that is received by parks across the city. The Committee should receive updates from Parks and Recreation on how these disparities are being remedied, and should explore methods that will ensure that all community parks in San Diego are receiving the same level of services.

Neighborhood Code Compliance

The Neighborhood Code Compliance Division of the Development Services Department administers programs designed to protect the public's health, safety, welfare, and property value through enforcement of the City's ordinances and State/Federal laws relating to land use, zoning, housing, public nuisances, graffiti abatement, and vegetation/fire hazard abatement. For too long, the staffing levels in the Division have been low and enforcement priorities have been adjusted downward to keep pace. The Committee should receive a detailed status update in order to determine what additional resources are needed for the Division to meet the required standard of service across the City.

Access to Fresh and Healthy Foods in Underserved Communities

This year the Committee will increase engagement and look to collaborate with City Staff, County of San Diego, community organizations, business owners and other interested stakeholders to introduce policy and/or the implementation of economic incentives to address areas classified as "food deserts" and "food swamps." Underserved Communities are often food deserts, where affordable and healthy food is difficult to obtain. The Committee should receive periodic updates on efforts attracting quality and responsible grocers, building public-private partnerships to support grocers who may provide healthy foods if given incentives, and advocating for additional wellness programs to improve the quality of life in our cities underserved communities.

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In addition to the priorities noted above, the Committee should continue to receive periodic updates from staff regarding neighborhood parks, recreation programs, emergency medical services, special event permits, maintenance assessment districts, veteran services, senior services, volunteerism, and libraries.

I look forward to addressing these priorities and issues presented by myself and members of this Committee in the upcoming year. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Consultant, Chloe Triplett, at (619) 236-7038.

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cc: Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst