THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT JENNIFER CAMPBELL
SECOND DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 5, 2021

TO: COVID-19 Response and Recovery Committee Members

FROM: Council President Jennifer Campbell, Co-Chair, District 2

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Response and Recovery Committee Priorities

This committee offers a forum to promote transparency, allowing for dialogue and collaboration in developing recommendations for the City's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. It will also provide adequate monitoring and oversight of the various relief programs to ensure they provide the most benefit for the most people.

Our communities continue to endure the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, an episode that has underscored the interconnectedness between a community's health and its economy. As our City increasingly rebounds and recovers, we must prioritize inclusion, access, and equity in our response. We must also acknowledge that our response is only the beginning of a long-term recovery process that will require bold, thoughtful leadership now and in the future.

Below are the top priorities I intend to address in this committee as we move toward full health and economic recovery. We must support a data-driven approach to prevent, test, and vaccinate efficiently and equitably. My priorities center around protecting community health including all preventive measures such as vaccine procurement and distribution, compliance with CDC guidelines, and sustained economic recovery for all.

Protecting Community Health

The following issues should be considered in order to protect community health:

Formalize Commitment to Public Health – Although the City must rely on the county for issues related to public health, the committee should formalize public health as a priority for the City of San Diego, emphasizing the City Council's commitment to fostering healthy neighborhoods.

Information and Accessibility – In addition to receiving routine updates form city and county response teams, the committee should find ways to make timely, relevant information easily accessible to our communities, acknowledging language barriers, the digital divide, and

connectivity issues. The committee may wish to request the development of a user-friendly portal or web page with resources and information for city businesses and residents.

Vaccine Deployment & Eligibility – As we move through the next eligible groups, the City should monitor procurement and deployment so that the limited supply reaches neighborhoods most impacted. The committee should also make recommendations for vaccination eligibility requirements, like zip code or geographic location, to reach the most heavily impacted areas as we distribute limited supply.

Supporting Schools, Students, and Teachers – As students, teachers, and staff return to the classroom for in-person instruction, the committee should consider ways to support their safety and well-being.

Accessibility and Transportation at Vaccination Sites – The committee should consider ways to make it easier for families and individuals to reach vaccination sites, prioritizing accessible locations and collaborating with regional partners to offer affordable transportation options. The committee should also find ways to help homebound individuals receive their vaccines.

Additional Vaccination Sites – The committee should explore options to install additional vaccination sites throughout the city, taking into consideration geographic accessibility as well as a data-driven approach to site placements to ensure sufficient vaccination rates, especially in the most heavily impacted communities.

Mobile Vaccination Sites – As vaccine eligibility expands, the committee should partner with regional health providers to deploy mobile vaccination sites on a rolling basis, similar to blood banking, in areas of need. This will reduce barriers to receiving the vaccine for neighborhoods throughout the City.

Project Homekey – Project Homekey ensures isolation for essential workers, homeless individuals, and those who are sick and need to isolate from their families. The committee should monitor this program and request updates on its effectiveness and future needs.

Sustained Economic Recovery

The following issues should be considered in order to promote sustained economic recovery for all San Diegans:

Tracking State & Federal Relief Funding – As state and federal funds become available to support city efforts to address the pandemic, the committee should collaborate with the Mayor's Government Affairs team to ensure our City's needs are met.

Small Business Relief– Small businesses throughout San Diego have faced ongoing challenges to stay open and retain employees. The committee should prioritize the replenishment of the Small Business Relief Fund and expand eligibility to allow more businesses to qualify for relief, including those with fewer employees. The committee should also request updates from the Economic Development Department on the distribution of the program funds.

Housing Stability Assistance Program – In addition to commercial and residential eviction moratoria, the City's rental and utility assistance program will protect residents in all San Diego communities impacted by COVID-19. As the administration implements this program, the committee should provide oversight and request updates on the program's accessibility and its equitable distribution of relief funds.

Temporary Outdoor Dining Ordinance – Outdoor dining permits have allowed many small businesses and restaurants to survive during the pandemic. This has transformed business in some areas in the city which could be successful beyond the public health orders. The committee should collaborate with Economic Development Department, all businesses, and Business Improvement Districts to create a plan for outdoor dining permits as we move toward full reopening.

Rental Deferment Options – City tenants and lessees, have faced prolonged economic downturn which has impacted their ability to meet rental obligations. The committee should consider rental deferment options for businesses and City lessees who have significant impact on city revenues.

Compliance, Enforcement, and Planning for the Future

As we reach full economic and health recovery, we must support efforts to comply with evolving regulations and provide necessary enforcement for violations. The following issues should be considered by this committee to promote compliance and provide adequate enforcement:

Outreach and Building Community Trust – The City should prioritize efforts to engage communities through targeted outreach, along with community-based organizations, in order to build community trust and provide information, response, and recovery to all. The committee should also encourage community engagement in oversight and developing recommendations, including cultural sensitivity needs.

Temporary Compliance Signage – The committee should prioritize compliance efforts including the installation of temporary signage to remind residents and visitors to maintain social distancing and wear adequate facial coverings.

Support Business Compliance & Safe Re-openings – Businesses have endured challenges and regulatory changes for the past year. This committee should commit to supporting all businesses, and Business Improvement Districts in their efforts to comply with health and safety practices. As entertainment venues begin to re-open, the committee should also ensure that the City of San Diego is collaborating to help businesses provide adequate safety amenities for all residents and visitors.

Deterrence of Large Crowds – Although much progress has been made in case rates and vaccination rates, the City should continue to collaborate with county teams to deter large gatherings that pose a public health risk. This may include regulations for vendors to maintain certain distances from each other to avoid crowd clustering.

Planning for Future Pandemics – The committee should plan for future pandemics by reflecting on lessons learned in the past year and develop recommendations in the event the City faces a similar situation in the future.