



Councilmember Marni von Wilpert

City of San Diego • District 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 15, 2021

TO: Special Committee on COVID-19 Response and Recovery Members

FROM: Councilmember Marni von Wilpert, Co-Chair, Special Committee on COVID-19 Response and Recovery *Marni von Wilpert*
Councilmember Jennifer Campbell, Co-Chair, Special Committee on COVID-19 Response and Recovery *Jennifer Campbell*

SUBJECT: 2021 Special Committee on COVID-19 Response and Recovery Work Plan

The Special Council Committee on COVID-19 Response and Recovery will provide for an open and transparent public process to discuss the City's efforts to respond to, and recover from, the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee will provide a forum for consideration of new policy proposals and to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of previously approved ordinances and regulations enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee will also be an opportunity for the City Council to engage with our residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, Office of the Mayor, and regional partners including the County of San Diego, our healthcare professionals, and local universities. Additionally, the Committee will allow the City Council to better focus on pandemic recovery for our City.

In consideration of Committee Member priorities for 2021, the Special Council Committee on COVID-19 Response and Recovery will focus on the following areas:

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION AND EQUITABILITY

The Committee will discuss the utilization of City of San Diego Fire Rescue personnel and resources to help to ensure vaccine equity in San Diego. This will include evaluation of temporary community vaccination sites and monitoring of vaccination rates. Focus will be given to underserved communities, homebound seniors, and people with disabilities. The Committee will receive updates on vaccine distribution, improving the digital divide in booking vaccine appointments, vaccine hesitancy, and language barriers.

The Committee will work with our regional partners to discuss innovative ways to deliver vaccinations throughout our communities. Examples include using mobile vaccination vehicles

similar to vehicles used by the mobile “Blood Bank, and pop-up vaccine centers to serve every community in San Diego.

ECONOMIC IMPACT SUPPORT

Evaluation and Oversight of Cares Act and American Rescue Plan Funds

The Committee will evaluate and provide oversight of Cares Act and American Rescue Plan funding by working with Mayor Todd Gloria’s Office to analyze the effectiveness and equitability of COVID-19 relief funds to improve upon the distribution of the American Rescue Plan funds as they pertain to COVID relief and recovery programs

Oversight of Small Business Relief Funding

The Committee will Review and provide oversight of the City’s Small Business Relief Funding opportunities. This will help to identify challenges experienced by our small business community in order to reduce barriers, red tape, and support equitable distribution of financial assistance.

The Committee will review city ordinances that allowed businesses to operate effectively during the pandemic while complying with public health order restrictions. These programs include utilizing Temporary Outdoor Business Operation Permits that allow businesses to expand to sidewalks, streets, and parking lanes. The Committee will also review the continued waiver of permit fees to operate outdoors in City parks, or other public spaces as necessary.

The committee will analyze the benefits of using professional services, technology, and other support from the Economic Development Department to help businesses, particularly diverse businesses in underserved neighborhoods recover at a similar rate as other businesses.

The Committee will hear from San Diego small businesses and organizations that support San Diego businesses, including the San Diego Small Business Administration and San Diego business chambers to determine how the Council can help improve its efforts to assist businesses through the pandemic.

Tourism

The Committee will review the tourism outlook with stakeholders including the San Diego Convention Center, Hotel and Motel Association, and Restaurant Industry to get a clearer picture of the sector’s forecasted recovery and a safe reopening plan.

The Committee will review the outlook for convention business over the next few years.

The Committee will reach out to the Arts and Culture community to get their input and feedback about the challenges that these organizations have experienced during the pandemic and discuss ways to assist these organizations in a post pandemic recovery.

Oversight and Review of Residential Rent and Mortgage Relief

The Committee will discuss and provide oversight of the rent relief funds totaling more than \$85 million dollars intended to help residents and small landlords most impacted by the economic devastation from COVID-19. This discussion will focus on ensuring an equitable distribution of funds for this critical program. The Committee will review the eviction moratorium implementation as deadlines approach to determine if there is a need for extensions or modifications. The Committee will discuss so-called “Do-It-Yourself” evictions where landlords illicitly force our tenants despite the existing moratorium.

Best Practices to Assist Homeless During the Recovery

Operation Shelter to Home helped place 1,300 individuals and 43 families into long-term or permanent housing. The Committee will hold a discussion and hear from stakeholders about building on the success and best practices from the Operation Shelter to Home program.

The Biden Administration announced that FEMA would provide 100% reimbursement for non-congregate shelter housing through September 2021. The Committee will discuss the steps the City must take to ensure we are in position to pursue that reimbursement.

The Committee will also review and evaluate a possible extension of Project Home Key that converted local hotels in order to house people experiencing homelessness.

Youth Support

The Committee will discuss the use of City facilities such as city parks and libraries for San Diego youth who have been impacted educationally, physically, and mentally by the Covid-19 pandemic.

FUTURE PLANNING

As the City did after the 2017 Hepatitis A health crisis, the Committee will review best practices learned during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to prepare the City of San Diego in the event of a future health crisis. Among other things, the Committee will review the use of the 2-1-1 System and look at opportunities to expand the program for people who do not have internet access.

The Committee will discuss providing incentives for businesses to implement new business models that utilize tele-commuting and using a remote workforce when possible, to help reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Committee will evaluate the opportunity to continue to provide remote access to governmental meetings, even when the Council is back in-person. The Committee will discuss

the continued use of platforms like Zoom Webinar to conduct meetings and allow public comment without attending in person, as well as language access provisions.

The Committee will invite the Mayor and City Departments to present how they have or would like to improve services to residents and improve efficiency through innovations that came about during the pandemic, including brining needed services like DSD's permitting system online.

Finally, the Committee will discuss the support of a National COVID-19 Memorial Day to remember the members of our community who died from COVID-19 during the pandemic.

CC: Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliot
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst