




**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER PRO TEM MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE
FOURTH DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 4, 2022

TO: Honorable City Council Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods
Committee Members

FROM: Council President pro Tem Monica Montgomery Steppe
Chair, Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods 

SUBJECT: 2022 Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee Priorities & Work Plan

The road to creating sustainable communities that enhance the quality of life for all residents is not linear. It takes a comprehensive approach that involves multiple stakeholders who are dedicated to moving the needle forward. Over the past two years, cities across the nation have implemented justice, equity, diversity and inclusion reforms within public safety and city services that affect our neighborhoods. Now is not the time to regress on reforms, but to analyze the plans that have already been initiated and direct the proper resources and support to make equitable frameworks a living reality.

It is an honor to continue my service as the Chair of the City Council's Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods and share the 2022 Work Plan. The pandemic and the recession have only highlighted the importance of creating balanced sustainable communities. The need to protect and improve the safety and quality of life for all residents throughout the city of San Diego is not just a goal, but an essential standard that we can achieve through implementing equitable policies and programs. The workplan reflects the Committee members and my priorities to address the growing needs in our neighborhoods.

The Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee areas of responsibility include police, fire, neighborhood parks, recreation programs, youth services, senior services, maintenance assessments districts, community development block grants, code enforcement, graffiti abatement, lifeguards, veteran's services, libraries, homeless services, consumer protection, homeland security, volunteerism, special event permits, emergency medical services, gang prevention and intervention, and the independent commission on police practices. When possible, the Committee will have themed meetings. Additionally, instead of addressing issues as they arise, the Committee will take the comprehensive approach of hearing more audits and reports to aid us with implementation and prevention planning. This approach will help us to view public safety as an ecosystem. The next sections review the priorities of the Committee for this year.

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

Reimagining Policing and Public Safety involves a collaboration between policymakers, law enforcement, grassroots organizations, activists, and community organizers. As we continue to move reforms along and hold law enforcement accountable, we must also continue to review and address preventative measures. This work includes encouraging our divisions to implement more community-oriented policing, ensuring that officers get the resources they need to address their overall wellness and ensuring that diversity is a priority within recruitment and retention practices.

- **Preventing Over Policing Through Equitable Community Treatment (PrOTECT):** On September 20, 2022, Council authorized the City Attorney to contract with outside panel counsel to supplement staff and provide legal analysis on the proposed PrOTECT ordinance. PrOTECT seeks to address invasive policing practices used disproportionately to stop, search and interrogate people from Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific Islander communities, the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities and other marginalized communities. Several studies on policing in the city support the need to address current bias in policing, including the San Diego State University studies on over policing and bias in policing, Campaign Zero, that utilized data from the Racial Identity and Profiling Act to report on the San Diego Police and Sheriff's Department and the report examining policing practices and behaviors conducted by the Center for Policing Equity (CPE) as part of the National Justice Database (NJD) project. The Committee should receive a presentation from the Coalition for Police Accountability and Transparency (CPAT) on the proposed PrOTECT ordinance and the legal analysis conducted by outside panel counsel to commence the discussion in developing legislation to further address the harmful impacts of bias in policing.
- **Monitoring of the Surveillance Ordinance and the Privacy Advisory Board:** In 2020, the PS&LN Committee led the push for a more comprehensive ordinance that establishes processes for encouraging transparency, accountability, and public deliberation, establishes rules for the acquisition and use of surveillance technology, and includes safeguards to protect civil rights and civil liberties. The Committee should continue to monitor the progress and be prepared to weigh in on both the proposed Surveillance Ordinance and the creation of a Privacy Advisory Board.
- **Transition of Independent Commission on Police Practices:** With the approval of Measure B on November 3, 2020, voters approved the dissolution of the existing Community Review Board on Police Practices (CRB) and the establishment of a new Commission on Police Practices (Commission). The Committee should continue to prioritize finalizing the implementation ordinance and monitoring the approval process and establishment of the new Commission. Once the new Commission is established, the Committee should receive regular updates from the Commission on the transitional efforts.
- **No Shots Fired Youth Intervention Program:** The reduction of violence is another priority Committee members listed this year. Last year this pilot program was launched to enhance public safety, decrease recidivism, and provide meaningful social services. This program provides a policy solution that quells violence, promotes economic justice

and improves community policing relationships. The program is made possible through collaboration between the Office of Mayor Todd Gloria, Council President pro Tem Montgomery Steppe, the San Diego Police Department, Shaphat Outreach, South Bay Community Services, Community Action Support Team, the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention, and other partner organizations. The Committee should hear a report on this program and consider hearing updates from similar credible messenger programs that disrupts violence.

- **Update from Racial Identity Profiling Advisory Board and Government Affairs on State Police Accountability Bills:** The Racial Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) initiated the creation of the statewide board. The board seeks to eliminate racial and identity profiling and improve diversity and racial and identity sensitivity in law enforcement. The board annually produces a report that reviews statewide stop data analysis, policies, civilian complaints and more. This year's report mentioned that the San Diego Police Department experienced the largest increase (90.2%, 102 to 194) in complaints from 2019 to 2020. SDPD should bring forward progress reports to the Committee and include information about any racial bias complaints, the outcomes of such complaints, and any action taken by SDPD to mitigate racial biases. The Committee should also hear an update from the RIPA Board on the 2022 RIPA Annual Report. This information will allow the Committee to see if progress is being made on addressing the disparities identified in the various studies completed to date.

FIRE-RESCUE

The Fire-Rescue team has played a pivotal role in getting us through the pandemic. As COVID-19 has gone through its surges, the importance of providing quick and efficient emergency medical responses has only grown. It is essential that the Committee continues to ensure that Fire-Rescue has the resources it needs to be successful. This includes carefully monitoring the emergency services transition, the resources that firefighters and emergency medical technicians receive to address their overall health and wellness, and ensure that diversity is a priority within recruitment and retention practices.

- **Emergency Medical Response:** Last year the City selected Falck as the emergency services provider. Now that the transition phase from AMR to Falck has ended, we must hold our new provider accountable to delivering services based on the agreed upon contractual terms. The Committee should receive an update on the Falck transition and also revisit the Resource Access Program (RAP). RAP is the strategic social arm of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. Implemented in 2008 within the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division of the fire department, RAP uses analytics in real-time to identify vulnerable 911 callers experiencing social difficulties such as chronic homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse disorders, or difficult social or medical situations.
- **Citygate Studies Update:** In the past, the Committee has received updates from Fire-Rescue on the Citygate Associates studies. These updates included recent studies covering various recommendations for operational needs, including: Standards of Response Coverage, Emergency Command & Data Center capability and needs assessment, 911 ambulance services oversight analysis, and an evaluation of our all-risk maritime response capabilities. The Committee should receive a timely update on these

studies to track the progress of these recommendations and advocate for priority needs addressed in the reports.

- **Brush Management and Abatement:** In recent years, the City has experienced numerous delays in brush abatement. As California has seen devastating wildfires across the state, it is imperative that we provide the adequate resources needed to take proactive and preventative approaches, as well as provide additional funding to our Fire-Rescue Department to conduct community education programs on brush maintenance and methods to prevent conditions that could lead to largescale fires. The Committee should receive reports from Fire-Rescue to evaluate our current process and determine what resources will be necessary to increase the maintenance and inspection of our open spaces, parks, and canyon land.

LIFEGUARDS

The pandemic has encouraged many residents to engage in more outdoor activity. Since our beaches reopened in 2020, there has been a significant increase in crowds. In 2021, the Lifeguard Division has made more than 370,000 Preventative Acts, nearly 7,000 Water Rescues, and over 75 Coastal Cliff Rescues. Our lifeguards have done their best to address the growing need for service. This Committee should receive and update from lifeguards on the impact of COVID-19, lifeguard staffing and equipment needs. The Committee should also explore options to improve the lifeguard facilities, ensuring that lifeguards get the resources they need to address their overall health and wellness and ensure that diversity is a priority within recruitment and retention practices.

- **Lifeguard Five Year Plan Update:** In 2014, the Lifeguard Division presented their Five-Year Plan, which included the need for additional lifeguards and support workers and setting aside funds for a vessel replacement. As we look to the future of lifeguard services, we must take a closer look at the progress made, what obligations remain, and determine what may need additional resources and support to continue effective operations.

L I V A B L E N E I G H B O R H O O D S

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

UNSHELTERED

As the pandemic continues, we must continue to think of innovative ways to serve our unsheltered population. For this reason, the Committee will have a meeting dedicated to homelessness this year so we can take a deeper dive into the problems and solutions on this topic. Representatives from the County of San Diego will be invited to share more on their programs.

- **Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets (CAHOOTS):** Our communities have expressed the desire for humane care to be administered to those in need as well as ensuring public safety. We must continue to explore ways to reduce police brutality and

adequately address mental health and substance use disorder crises. This requires thoughtful investment into proven models that prioritize effective, trauma-informed care through robust health care and social services rather than immediately involving law enforcement. Investment in programs like CAHOOTS could alleviate the significant burden on our police department.

- **Equity Analysis of Services and Placement Rates:** Any effort to end homelessness in the United States must address the range of issues that have resulted from racial inequity. This includes assuring affordable, stable housing for all. Systems, programs, and individuals that serve people experiencing homelessness should monitor their outcomes in order to eliminate disparities in the way they provide services. Therefore, the Committee should receive a presentation that outlines how City funded shelters are addressing this issue.
- **Impacts of COVID-19 on the Community Action Plan on Homelessness and Data Management Systems:** 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, COVID-19 impacts, and additional strategies that have been proposed as we look towards recovery. We have the unique opportunity to make long lasting impacts on our homeless coordination system well beyond the COVID 19 pandemic. The Committee should receive a detailed update on the efforts to connect those experiencing homelessness to long term, sustainable housing, and wrap around services.
- **Updates on the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT):** The Homeless Outreach Team has played a key role in reaching individuals that are experiencing homelessness, and connecting individuals to the proper providers as we continue to face the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we must begin to look towards alternative methods. The Committee should partner with police, mental health providers, and homeless services officials to come up with a new model that would transition the HOT team out of direct response to these calls and redirect calls about certain nonviolent issues to outreach workers and medical providers. The City has seen success with the PERT program, the number of clinicians continues to increase each year. These licensed mental health providers accompany both the Homeless Outreach Team and officers on their patrols and have the expertise needed to assist in mental health emergencies across the City. Given the crucial role that these clinicians play, and as we move towards the goal of phasing out law enforcement response to homelessness, the Committee should receive updates from SDPD on the progress of the program, and gather additional information to determine what resources will help to achieve higher levels of service.
- **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 affordable housing. Therefore, the Committee should explore options to repeal the Vehicle Habitation Ordinance, while also working with City staff to identify ways to expand the Safe Parking Program in every Council district. While the Safe Parking Program was created to provide safety and a pathway for those looking to access robust services that will lead to permanent housing, we must emphasize the need for progressive enforcement 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.

SENIORS

We must take care of those who have taken care of us. Last year this Committee heard the Age Well Plan, which was a comprehensive plan that aligned policies with action items for seniors. This Committee should receive and update on the implementation of that plan and initiatives that can provide resources to seniors who are in need.

- **Reducing Vulnerability by Providing A Shallow Subsidy Program for Seniors:** Senior advocate organizations such as Serving Seniors have highlighted the small amount of money that seniors need to stay sheltered is often hard to come by. Seniors are on a limited income and often need assistance navigating

YOUTH

We must continue to provide relevant programming for our youth that provides them with resources, career, and both personal and professional development opportunities.

- **Girls Empowerment Camp:** In 2017, 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. This type of programming is critical to exposure for our young women and has the potential to lead to additional opportunities to diversify the Department.
- **Youth Care and Development Program:** The youth experience often differs in the City of San Diego depending on what opportunities are available and accessible in their neighborhoods, including education, after-school programs, youth development programs, and access to mental health resources. Youth also often experience violence in multiple ways: in the media, at home, in their community, or at school. The Committee should work to create robust community youth social and emotional development programs in eight neighborhoods located in the City of San Diego: City Heights, Barrio Logan, Memorial, Mt. Hope, Oceanview, Lincoln Park, Encanto, and Skyline.
- **Youth Environmental Recreation Corps + Connect 2 Career Expansion:** The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically impacted young people, who are more likely than older Americans to lose their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the number of youth who are not in school or working rises sharply as youth leave high school and

struggle to find work or enroll in/afford higher education. To address this, we must support young people with more opportunities during this transition. One-time summer funding in FY22 provided multiple new opportunities for youth employment and leadership opportunities. These opportunities should be continued long-term and expanded to the following departments: Libraries, Environmental Services, Public Utilities, Stormwater, Planning, Transportation, General Services, and Sustainability. The funding should also be provided to community organizations to support youth, prioritizing opportunity youth and youth eligible for Cal FRESH employment opportunities in parks and recreation.

- **SD Nights Program:** SD Nights is focused on providing services and programming for teens at risk of entering the juvenile justice system during the summer months when school and other structured activities may be unavailable. The City of San Diego's Teen Nite Program currently provides free activities and trips for youth every Friday in the summer at 15 site locations along with the City of San Diego Police Department. Expanding this initiative to include more community partners will allow the program to grow in scope. Furthermore, it will revamp the program from an afterschool program to a diversion program that will provide recreational and education opportunities for at-risk youth at least 4 times a week during the summer. SD Nights would be based upon a similar program that has been operational and successful in Los Angeles. The County of San Diego also has a SD Nights Program and has partnered with the city of San Diego on the Come Play Outside initiative. This Committee should receive a report on the plans for summer programming and other programming plans throughout the year for youth.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

- Update from San Diego Workforce Partnership on CDBG Funded Workforce Programs
- Update from Mayors office on 2021 Back to Work SD Program

LIBRARY + PARK & RECREATION

Libraries

Our libraries and parks deliver the everyday essential services that our residents need. They are more than just spaces to play and read. They are community gathering hubs, cool zones, places to host transformative youth programs, get access to wifi, attend health and wellness courses, spaces to celebrate our rich culture and so much more. As our city seeks to apply the lens of equity through the upcoming Library Master Plan, we must ensure that our communities continue to receive the resources and services that they need to live a sustainable life.

- **Stop Reduction in Library Service Levels:** The Library Department materials budget has remained flat since 2009 and has historically been one of the lowest among the largest cities in the nation with a materials per capita budget of \$1.82. While the increase from \$1.28 to \$1.82 per capita budget is appreciated, it is still not enough. In comparison, the County of San Diego has a \$5.2M books budget and per capita spending of \$5.00. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library has experienced a change in the way materials and services have been traditionally provided to patrons. With declining purchasing power and the high cost of online materials, the Library Department will be forced to reduce access to popular digital databases, online tutoring programs, and eBooks without increasing the materials budget. The Committee should hear a report on the Library Reopening Plan and the current state of library services.

- **Library Master Plan Framework:** The Library Master Plan Framework is built on analysis of the San Diego Public Library's experience, innovation, and successes in addition to input from thousands of community members, stakeholders, and City and Library staff who participated in the process. The Framework proposes a set of principles, concepts, and considerations to guide city investments in San Diego's library network over the next 20 years. The vision is to create an equitable, experiential, effective library system that is effective everywhere. The Committee should hear a report on the current stage of the library master plan.

Parks

Last year the Committee and Council approved the Parks Master Plan update. As the implementation plan moves forward, there are various aspects the Committee should monitor. This monitoring includes, and is not limited to, the citywide park and recreation condition assessment and opportunity fund. A report on diversity in staff should be heard by the Committee as the department fills the vacancies that occurred during the pandemic.

- **Park and Recreation Equity Funding:** In recent years, the proposed fiscal year budget for Recreation Center Funds from the Park & Recreation Department has shown large disparities regarding funding that is received by parks across the city. This funding is crucial, as it covers citywide recreational programs and events at parks and, maintains facilities. The Committee should receive updates from Parks and Recreation on how these disparities are being remedied and should explore methods that will ensure all community parks in San Diego are receiving the same level of services. Additionally, the Committee should focus on a citywide park and recreation condition assessment to direct specific investments to historically under-resourced public parks and help address system-wide needs for park equity throughout our city's neighborhoods.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

- Update on the implementation status of recommendations from the 2021 audit on City of San Diego Equity in Recreation Programming
- Update on Independent Budget Analyst Funding Park Improvements within Communities of Concern

GRANTS

State, Federal & Grant Funding

This Committee would like to hear standard reports on San Diego Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and public safety grants that help so many of our programs. Additionally, the Committee should hear a report from governmental affairs on state and federal funded grants that the city is applying for that fall under the issue areas of this Committee.

- **Monitoring of the Community Development Block Grant Program:** CDBG is a vital resource for local governments and has been crucial for reducing the negative impact that COVID-19 has had on communities. Following the initial onset of the pandemic, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided \$5 billion in CARES Act funding for CDBG programs. The Committee should receive regular updates from

Economic Development Department regarding plans to reinvest funds into economically disadvantaged communities and communities severely impacted by the pandemic to alleviate economic hardship.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

Community Services

The services provided by the City are often our residents first interaction with the city. Our departments must be informed and equipped to meet the needs of our community.

Improving Neighborhood Code Compliance in Underserved Communities: The Neighborhood Code Compliance Division of the Development Services Department administers programs designed to protect the public 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. Code compliance in historically under resourced communities has fallen short in relation to residential properties as well as commercial storefronts that have become magnets for loitering and crime. For too long, the staffing levels in the Division have been low and enforcement priorities have been adjusted downward to keep pace. It is imperative that the resource capacity of the department be analyzed in a timely manner to determine the proper amount of funding that may be necessary to assist the division in carrying out their duties. The Committee should receive a report on any audits or reports assessing our Neighborhood Code Compliance.

- **Family Justice Center:** For those living with or exposed to abusive partners, COVID-19 restrictions, social distancing, and stay-at-home orders can be exceptionally dangerous. As we continue to navigate through the new normal of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that we learn more about domestic violence and how we can support survivors during these times. The Committee should receive an update from the Family Justice Center (FJC) regarding the spike in domestic violence calls and how the center is working to advocate for the necessary resources to ensure the FJC continues to provide the highest quality of service to victims of domestic violence.
- **Special Event Services:** The city has proposed raising user fees this year. If this passes, user fees for special events and permitting will raise and affect many of our community organizations and nonprofits that work hard to organize events with limited budgets. The Committee should receive an update on the outreach this department is conducting on this matter and an update on revenue and operations for Special Event Services.

Public Health Concerns

We must actively engage in evidence based public health models to get through this pandemic and recession. While the city does not cover public health, there are points of intersectionality where the city does provide prevention or upholds rules and regulations in the public health model. The social determinates of health, such as economic stability and the built environment of a community, should be considered as we begin to view public safety as an ecosystem. The Committee will take a closer look at these matters this year to ensure that our communities remain safe, healthy and vibrant.

- **Food Insecurity:** The Committee will continue to find avenues to collaborate with community organizations, stakeholders, and the County of San Diego to address the lack of access to fresh and healthy foods in underserved communities. Historically under-resourced communities are often food deserts, where affordable and healthy food is difficult to obtain. The San Diego County Food Vision 2030 is community-engaged plan facilitated by the San Diego Food System Alliance with a goal to inform planning, policy, programs, and investment opportunities for San Diego region food system for the next ten years. We have continued to face challenges within the food system, which have not only been magnified through the COVID-19 outbreak, but also naturally as more communities urbanize and populations continue to grow. The Committee should discuss ways to increase the viability of local food businesses by creating specific funding mechanisms for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) farmers, fishermen and businesses, as well as expand support for urban community gardens and agriculture. The Committee should receive a report on the recent code update to develop gardens and receive updates on efforts attracting quality and responsible grocers, building public-private partnerships to support grocers who may provide healthy foods if given incentives.
- **Fentanyl Crisis:** The fentanyl crisis has ravaged historically under-resourced communities throughout the pandemic. This is a serious problem that the county is closely observing as the overdoses continue to increase exponentially. The Committee should receive a report on the outreach the San Diego Police Department is doing to inform the force about this epidemic and request that county provide an update on the steps they are taking as well.
- **Opioid Settlement:** The collateral consequences of the opioid epidemic have devastated families and communities. Low-income communities are more likely to experience the effects of the epidemic due to a lack of resources or health services to address addiction. The Committee should receive an update from the City Attorney regarding the settlement efforts with the pharmaceutical industries involvement in the opioid crisis, as well as explore options for utilizing these funds in our most impacted communities.
- **Safe Syringe Program:** The Safe Syringe Program has provided case managers, facilitates safe disposal of used syringes, and provides the connection to other critical services such as referral to substance use disorder treatment programs, screening for potential infections, and education around overdose prevention and safe injection practices. The Committee should amplify the work of the Family Health Center, which has offered comprehensive services that have proven to be effective and have provided community-based approaches. Further investment into this program will increase the City's efforts to provide clean and safe streets, park space, and neighborhoods, as well as mitigate risks to public health.

I look forward to addressing these priorities and issues in the upcoming year. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Consultant, Tiffany Harrison, at (619) 236-7108.

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cc: Charles Modica, Deputy Director, Independent Budget Analyst