



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT SEAN ELO-RIVERA
NINTH COUNCIL DISTRICT**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE
FOURTH COUNCIL DISTRICT**

**COUNCILMEMBER JOE LACAVA
FIRST COUNCIL DISTRICT
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: February 16, 2023

TO: Mayor Todd Gloria

FROM: Council President Sean Elo-Rivera
Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery Steppe
Councilmember Joe LaCava

SUBJECT: Request Inclusion of Ad-Hoc Committee on Addressing Homelessness Among Black San Diegans Recommended Action Items in Staff Reports

In January 2020, the San Diego City and County Continuum of Care approved the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Addressing Homelessness Among Black San Diegans (“the Committee”). The creation of the Committee came amidst the racial reckoning of 2020 and in response to 2020 Point-in-Time data that demonstrated Black San Diegans accounted for 21 percent of the region’s unsheltered population and 30 percent of the sheltered population despite comprising only 5.5 percent of San Diego County’s total population.

After two years of intensive work, the Committee published the *ACTION PLAN: Addressing Homelessness Among Black San Diegans*¹ (Plan) presented it to City Council and Housing Authority the same month. The Plan offered six action items aimed at addressing the impacts of systemic racism and its effects within the homeless crisis response system. The six action items are:

1. Develop a HMIS Data Dashboard to Track our Progress on Equity Goals
2. Inclusive Procurement

¹ San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness. ACTION PLAN: Addressing Homelessness Among Black San Diegans (September 2022). Available at https://www.rtfhsd.org/wp-content/uploads/RTFH_ActionPlan_BlackSanDiegans_Interactive.pdf.

3. Training and Education
4. Mentorship of Black-Led Organizations
5. Center the Voices of People with Lived Experience Who Are Black
6. Transform the Crisis Response System

Each of these action items includes multiple specific action steps that can be incorporated into the City's work to address and reduce homelessness.

It is critical to us that the work of the Committee be honored by the City through the incorporation of its recommendations. We request that all items presented to Council committees and Council by the Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department (HSSD) include how the staff recommendation incorporates the six action items. We further request that HSSD staff provide a memorandum or report identifying actions taken to date regarding the six action items. We have made an identical request to the San Diego Housing Commission.

Myriad factors contribute to homelessness and the severe disparities Black San Diegans experience related to homelessness. We acknowledge no single City department can solve systemic racism. However, the City has a responsibility to do all it can to address and reduce the unacceptable disparities facing Black San Diegans. Incorporating the requested information into each staff report will allow the Council to better understand how we can support this critical endeavor.

CC: Eric Dargan, Chief Operating Officer
 Hafsa Kaka, Director, Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department (HSSD)
 Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst