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Council President Sean Elo-Rivera Statement on Smart Streetlights and License Plate Readers

SAN DIEGO – Please see the following statement from Council President Sean Elo-Rivera on Smart Streetlights.

The safety of San Diego residents is incredibly important to me and residents of District Nine. The City Council also voted unanimously to pass the TRUST Ordinance, protecting the privacy of San Diego residents and requiring transparency regarding surveillance in our communities.

The process of approving use of surveillance technologies is explicit in requiring review by the community, the Privacy Advisory Board, the Public Safety Committee and the City Council.

Yet, in its first meeting to review the first surveillance technology for use in the city, requested information was not made available for an essential step in the approval process. The sponsors of this technology did not provide important information to the Privacy Advisory Board which was later provided to the Public Safety Committee.

If we want to successfully provide oversight of surveillance technology, the unanimously agreed upon process must be followed.

While I can see the benefits to the community of these new technologies, we must value transparency to the community and the needs of the privacy advisory board.

Council President Elo-Rivera represents San Diego's Ninth Council District including communities of City Heights, College Area, El Cerrito, Kensington, Mission Valley East, Mountain View, Mt. Hope, Normal Heights, Rolando Village, Rolando Park, Stockton and Talmadge. He is the Chair of the Rules Committee and serving his second term as San Diego City Council President.

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