



The Office of Councilmember
Raul A. Campillo
Proudly serving San Diego's 7th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, December 29, 2023

CONTACT: Michael Simonsen | msimonsen@sandiego.gov | 619.884.7335

County and City Leaders Call On All San Diegans to be Responsible And Not Drive While Intoxicated

SAN DIEGO (December 29, 2023) – Today, San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo was joined by District Attorney Summer Stephan, San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott, and Chief of Police David Nisleit to remind all San Diegans about the dangers and consequences of driving while intoxicated.

Days before Christmas, Councilmember Campillo, his wife Nadia and their two-month-old son were out shopping when out of nowhere their car was struck by another car going approximately 65mph. The driver of the other vehicle fled the scene and was eventually apprehended where they were placed under arrest for felony hit and run while DUI.

“As a former DUI prosecutor, I knew the impacts that DUI collisions have on families, but it wasn’t until my wife, my two-month-old son, and I were the victims of a 65-miles-per-hour hit-and-run drunk driver on December 20 that it truly hit home,” **said Councilmember Raul Campillo.** *“Thankfully our injuries were minor, but sadly, many victims do not survive such an incident. We are grateful to the California Highway Patrol, the Sheriff’s Office, and Heartland Fire Department for their quick response and ensuring our safety”* said Campillo. *“I beg everyone to please take a taxi or ride share if they drink this New Year’s Eve and to ensure your friends and families do not drink and drive. It will save lives. It could save yours.”*

“Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs has devastating and lifelong consequences,” **said San Diego County district Attorney Summer Stephan.** *“Our office has a specialized team of prosecutors and investigators who bring justice to DUI offenders who cause death,”* DA Stephan said. *“The increase over the last few years of people in our community dying at the hands of impaired drivers is disturbing. As the end of the holiday season approaches, we must insist that the drivers in our lives make responsible choices, such as using a cab service or designating a sober driver. Only this will keep friends and family alive.”*

In 2022, 33 people were killed in 32 DUI-related crashes. As of December 19, there have been 30 people killed so far this year.

“The biggest spike in drunk driving fatalities happens on New Year's Eve, and every single one of those deaths is avoidable,” said City Attorney Mara Elliott. “I am proud to stand with my colleagues from law enforcement and with former City prosecutor, Councilmember Raul Campillo, to reiterate that no one should participate in the inexcusable and inexplicable crime of drunk and drugged driving.”

###

About Councilmember Raul Campillo

Councilmember Raul Campillo proudly represents the Seventh Council District of the City of San Diego and serves as the Chair of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.