Hello Neighbors,

There is a lot of activity in our community and at City Hall this time of year. Keep reading to learn how you can get involved with creating the City’s new budget.

First, I wanted to highlight that this is a special time of year for our community. Earlier this month, my family and I had the pleasure of celebrating Thai, Lao, and Cambodian New Year. And just last week, San Diegans came together to mark Passover. I extend warm wishes to all who celebrated!

Looking ahead into May, it’s, of course, a time to acknowledge our military service members who sacrificed everything for our nation on Memorial Day. We will also be marking Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month with an array of exciting events, including Convoy Nights on May 4th. Swing by our booth at Kilowatt Brewery to enjoy a free family event featuring local vendors and entertainment.

Meanwhile, I recently joined my City Council colleagues, local agencies, and more than 170 civic and business leaders in Washington, D.C., to advocate for priorities crucial to our region. Many thanks to the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce for coordinating. A few highlights include:

- Meeting with officials from the federal Department of Transportation to encourage investments in important San Diego priorities, such as reducing traffic in Sorrento Valley and expanding Terminal 1 at San Diego International Airport.

- A sit down with Dr. Kimberly McClain, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to advocate for additional federal funding to bolster special purpose vouchers [which will help vulnerable populations with rental assistance,
including people experiencing homelessness or youth exiting foster care], discuss the importance of making emergency housing vouchers permanent, and calling for federal funding to supplement the City of San Diego’s existing Housing Instability Prevention Program which will help low-income families or families experiencing or at risk of homelessness to pay rent and other related expenses.

- Lastly, I had the honor of moderating the Chamber delegation’s meeting with the Embassy of Japan. We met with Taro Han, First Secretary of the Economic Section at the Embassy of Japan to discuss the U.S.-Japan economic, cultural, and diplomatic relationship, as well as efforts to address common challenges and to strengthen collaboration.

As chair of the City’s Budget & Government Efficiency Committee, I want to ensure you know about an opportunity to make your voice heard at City Hall. I encourage everyone to participate in our office’s upcoming Budget Town Hall on May 15th, where we will be joined by the Office of Independent Budget Analyst. Your input and engagement are invaluable to creating a fair, responsible, and balanced budget. More details about the event can be found below, and I hope to see you there!

Happenings In and Around District 6

**CONVOY NIGHTS**  
**May 4, 2024 from 4:00PM – 9:00PM**  
Kilowatt Brewing is celebrating Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May with the Convoy District to highlight a fantastic array of local vendors.  
Open to the public, pet-friendly, and free to attend for all ages.

**GATOR BY THE BAY**  
**May 11–14, 2024**  
The spirit, sounds, and flavor of Mardi Gras come alive at the largest and most authentic Louisiana-themed music and food festival on this side of the bayou. This 4-day, family-friendly celebration takes place on San Diego Bay, featuring 100+ live musical acts & performances on 7 stages, wooden dance floors, shade, green grass and plenty of fun for the kids.

**MT. SOLEDAD’S MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**  
**May 29, 2024**  
The Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial will honor our nation’s heroes through a live tribute event on 29 May 2023 from 11 a.m. to noon (PDT).
Visit the District 6 Calendar to view community planning groups, local events, and town council meetings.

**DISTRICT 6**

**CITY BUDGET Town Hall**

Join the offices of Councilmember Kent Lee and the Independent Budget Analyst for a City Budget Town Hall to learn about San Diego’s 2025 Proposed Budget.

**WHEN:** MAY 15, 2024 AT 6 - 8PM

**WHERE:** 9605 SCRANTON RD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92121

The Budget Town Hall will take place on **May 15th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.** at **9605 Scranton Rd, San Diego, CA 92121**. To RSVP and submit questions or concerns in advance, please email **BudgetandFinance@sandiego.gov**. Additional public hearings will occur at City Hall on May 1st and 8th – more information on the full budget review process can be found on the **Independent Budget Analyst’s webpage**.
District 6 Business Spotlight

Mekong Cuisine Lao & Thai

We had the pleasure of celebrating authentic Lao and Thai flavors at...
Mekong Cuisine Lao & Thai in District 6's vibrant Convoy district!

Stella, the owner of Mekong, envisioned a place where she could savor Lao cuisine from her roots while sharing a bottle of wine with friends. She made that dream a reality, and we enjoyed tasting their delicious dishes, including Nam Khao Tod, Crab Fried Rice, Avocado Curry, and Crying Tiger. Join us in honoring Stella Bayphouthongkham, the visionary owner, as she continues to promote Lao culture through delectable dishes.

Follow @mekongsd_ to discover more about this thriving Convoy district gem.

3904 Convoy St.
Unit 112
San Diego, CA 92111
https://www.mekongsandiego.com

Follow along on social media to see more weekly business spotlights!

Community Resources

- Resiliency Advisory Board
- Library Commission

Click the links above to learn more about these openings and how to apply.

For any questions related to District 6 vacancies or how to get involved, please email Madison Coleman at mocoleman@sandiego.gov

Sorrento Valley COASTER Connection (SVCC) Update

As a Board member of the North County Transit District (NCTD), I'm happy to share that the proposal to expand the Sorrento Valley COASTER Connection (SVCC) service routes was unanimously approved. Starting Jun 10, 2024, NCTD will implement 5 routes in Sorrento Valley East, Sorrento Mesa, Carroll Canyon, Torrey Pines, and University City/UCSD. This expansion will help improve mobility and connectivity needs for District 6 and those who commute daily for their jobs and other essentials.

Please see a map below of the new SVCC routes:
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