

Statement on Kettner and Vine Lease Deal

July 23, 2024

SAN DIEGO – Please see the following statement from Council President Sean Elo-Rivera and summary of the Council's action:

"In considering the Mayor's proposal to lease the Kettner and Vine property, the San Diego City Council demanded a transparent, fair and responsible deal. We made it clear that while we urgently need to address our homelessness crisis, we will not accept a deal that is not favorable to the City and our residents."

"I'm grateful to my colleagues for their intense work in preparing for the meeting and their diligence on the dais to examine the proposed lease for its flaws and unanswered questions. I also appreciate the San Diegans, especially those who've experienced homelessness, for engaging in this process in such a rich and meaningful way."

"San Diego can solve our homelessness crisis. We can only do that if we work together and demonstrate discipline in following best practices and making the absolute best use of resources."

Summary of Council's Action

On Monday night, the City Council passed a motion 7-2 to return the Mayor's proposal with the following recommendations and requests:

1. The Mayor and City staff introduce an item at the Wednesday, July 31 Special City Council meeting declaring a state of emergency on homelessness;

2. The Mayor's office and City staff partner with all interested Council offices and key stakeholders to develop a short-term action plan on homelessness to be presented to Council on September 9th, 2024. This action plan should consider immediate shelter needs, use of master leases, direct financial assistance options, as well as the use of underutilized City property. All options presented to the Council should incorporate the terms of the City Project Labor Agreement to ensure fair labor practices and community benefits. Staff should ensure the replacement of these beds by December 31, 2024; and

3. The Mayor's Office and City staff continue to pursue long-term permanent shelter solutions that incorporate the terms of the City's Project Labor Agreement and present options at the September meeting of the Land Use and Housing Committee.

4. Request that the Mayor's office and city staff work with the Landlord and the Office of the City Attorney to revise the proposed lease to incorporate the agreed four modified terms, as verbally agreed to by the Landlord, to further protect the City and return to Council next Tuesday, July 30 during the 10 a.m. session with an updated lease agreement for consideration.

5. Request that the City negotiations team and City Attorney's office make best faith efforts to negotiate language protecting the City's interest on all items raised in the City Attorney's memo report dated July 19, 2024.

6. The final work letter is subject to Council approval.

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 third term as San Diego City Council President

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