



San Diego City Council
**HENRY
FOSTER III**
District 4

MARCH 2025, VOLUME IX

SAN DIEGO
BLACK
ARTS + CULTURE
DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER



Councilmember Henry L. Foster III

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564027920058>



@CD4FOSTER



Marie Widman

Rohanee Zapanta

Dr. Shirley Weber

Chandra Reid

Shirley Jean Meadors

The Women of District 4

CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month. The annual observance highlights the contributions of women past and present. Locally, District 4 is home to some of the most incredible women in politics, civil rights, arts, music, sports, and culture.

Shirley Jean Meadors, Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber, Marie Widman, and Judge Rohanne Zapanta are women who broke the glass ceiling in their industry. Let's continue to honor those who came before us and share their legacy for generations.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

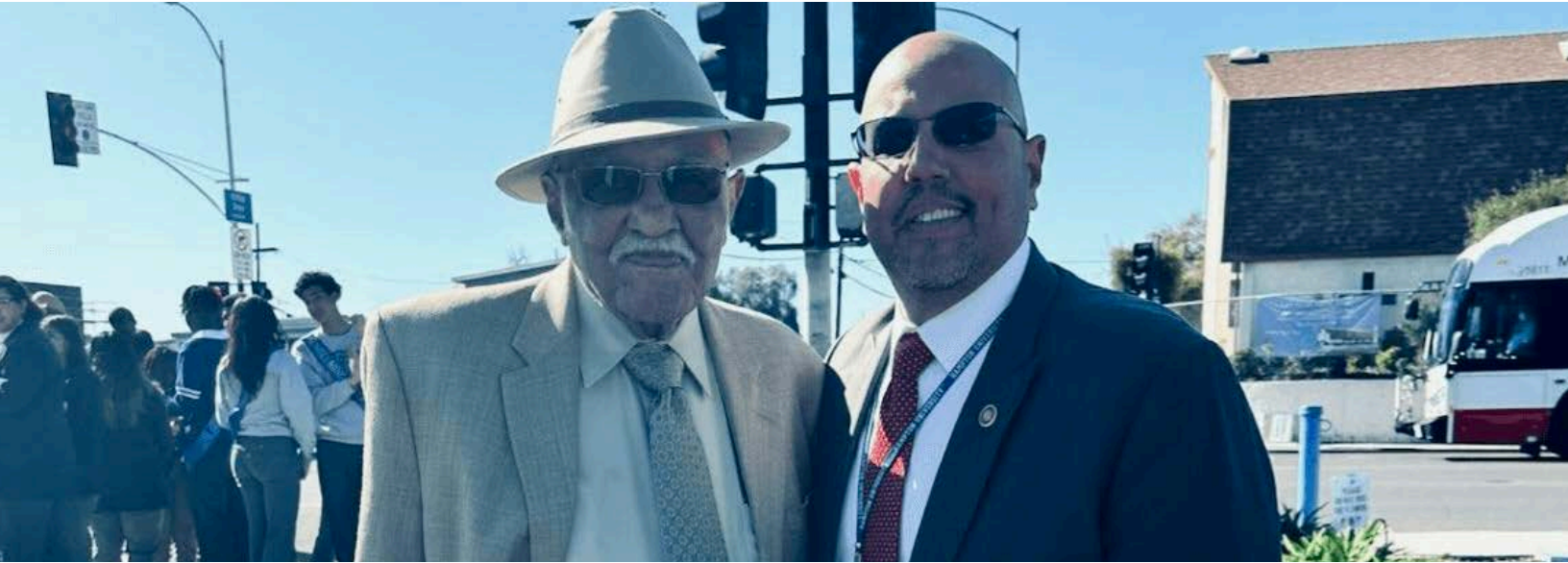


CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEON L. WILLIAMS

With heartfelt gratitude and admiration, we celebrate the extraordinary life of Leon L. Williams, a trailblazer whose leadership and unwavering dedication shaped the City of San Diego. He passed away March 1st at the age of 102. On March 10th, to honor his life and legacy, I presented an Adjournment in Memory at San Diego City Council. On March 29th, I attended his homegoing celebration of life at Calvary Baptist Church. The words shared by loved ones and colleagues that day reminded us again of his extraordinary character and achievements. His commitment to justice and public service uplifted countless San Diegans and set a standard for principled leadership.

Serving as San Diego's first Black City Councilmember and County Supervisor, Mr. Williams broke barriers, championed equity, and fought for the people—he fought for our community and a better San Diego for all. He paved the way for Black elected leaders. Mr. Williams is why I can serve today as Councilmember for the Fourth District. My sincere condolences and prayers go out to his family and loved ones. His life and legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

To watch the Leon L. Williams Adjournment in Memory, visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/58j7ajd6>



BLACK WOMEN EMPOWERMENT MARCH

On March 1st, several members from my office joined the Black Women Empowerment March to honor the legacy of District 4 civic leader Marie Widman. The march traveled through the Black Arts + Culture District to Marie Widman Memorial Park, where the community gathered to celebrate her lasting impact on San Diego. Special thanks to the 1619 National Celebration of Black Women for bringing people together to keep her legacy alive and to honor Black Women.



UNO HIT - WE ARE ONE

I was honored to join the Mayor and Council President, Pro Tem Kent Lee, in proclaiming March 3, 2025, "Guam History and Chamorro Heritage Day".

District Four is home to many Chamorro families spanning several generations.

Shout-out to the Sons & Daughters of Guam Club (SDGC) in District 4, "the home away from home" for many Chamorros. Thank you to Brienda Diaz and Tana Lepule of SDGC for speaking at the proclamation ceremony. Let's celebrate the contributions of Chamorro culture in San Diego. Say it loud in Chamorro: **Uno Hit / We are** one in District 4!



LEADING THE NEXT GENERATION OF YOUNG MEN

On March 7th, I was honored to speak with students at the 18th Annual Young Men's Leadership Conference at Monte Vista High School. The event is for boys in grades 6 through 12. The event aims to empower and uplift students with workshops in the pursuit of STEM careers.

Congratulations to all the students for their dedication to academic excellence. Thank you to the organizers and guest speakers for strengthening our communities through your leadership! A special thank you to Dr. Lavar Watkins and Kristina Hereford Watkins of the LKW STEM Foundation!



**EMILIA CASTILLO:
CITY OF SAN DIEGO WOMEN OF DISTINCTION
HONOREE**

The Mayor and the San Diego City Council award 10 local women each year with the Women of Distinction award. On March 18th, I was honored to present Emilia Castillo of District Four as one of this year's Women of Distinction award recipients. If it's about advocating for kids and furthering their education, you'll find Emilia there.

Emilia is a leader with Platicando Con Mi Gente. (Spanish: Talking with My People). The community group hosts the "National Night Out" event at Gompers Park in partnership with SDPD's Southeastern Division. The event is 10 years strong!

For Emilia, every day is a day of service. She volunteers to translate for the Spanish-speaking community as they navigate the education system. She also serves as the Vice Chair for the San Diego Unified School District Lincoln Cluster Community Council. Congratulations to Emilia! We are grateful for her community service to District 4.





EACH ONE, TEACH ONE

On March 21st, I had the pleasure of speaking to the students of the Man Up! Club at Wilson Middle School. I shared my experiences growing up in District 4. Roosevelt Johnson founded Man Up! and is a Special Educator at Wilson Middle. The club provides boys year-round support in self-improvement, empowerment, responsibility, and cultural awareness.

Thank you, Mr. Johnson, for your commitment to youth in the City of San Diego!

To learn more about the Man Up! Club, visit : <https://tinyurl.com/42hm2u5r>



CELEBRATE THE F.A.N.C.Y. GIRLS

On March 22nd, I had the honor of speaking at the 7th Annual F.A.N.C.Y Teen Girls Scholarship Awards Luncheon. This year's group is truly F.A.N.C.Y. — Focused and Naturally Confident Youth. I am excited to see the incredible paths they will forge ahead.

I want to thank Executive Director Tinesia Conwright and the Detour Empowers team for their unwavering commitment to uplift and empower teenage girls in our communities.

Congratulations!

To learn more about Detour Empowers/F.A.N.C.Y., visit : <https://detourempowers.org/>



READING FOR THE SOUL

Also, on March 22nd, I attended READ/San Diego's 36th Annual Awards Ceremony & Recognition Luncheon at the San Diego Central Library. I had a great time with all the guests, including my aunts, Ms. Romell Foster-Owens and award recipient Ms. Zarier Howard! Thank you to READ/San Diego for all its efforts to increase literacy in our communities.

Congratulations to all the award recipients for another year of literacy success!

To learn more about READ/SD, visit: <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/central-library/read>

CITY HALL UPDATES

MEASURE B - TRASH & RECYCLING SERVICE PROPOSED FEE



The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department (ESD) plans to propose the initiation of a process to establish a fee for trash and recycling collection services at the City Council meeting on Mon., April 14.

You still have an opportunity to share your feedback on the proposed fee. To submit a public comment online, please visit: <https://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/agenda-comment-form>

If you choose to attend the Council meeting—either virtually or in person—you can also provide feedback during the public comment period for this item. For details on how to participate in public comments, please: <https://www.sandiego.gov/cityclerk/participate>
To learn more visit cleangreensd.org.



WATER RATES

On March 4th, I voted "NO" to the proposed 5.5% water rate Increase. Councilmembers Vivian Moreno and Marni von Wilpert also voted "NO." Unfortunately, our votes were insufficient to stop the increase from passing at the San Diego City Council.

More needs to be done with the County Water Authority and our ability to access other water sources and earn revenue from the water surplus gained from conservation efforts. District 4 consistently faces significant negative impacts from these decisions, whether it's through rate increases or delays in infrastructure improvements. It is unfair for residents to carry the burden of bad decisions of the past.

The 5.5% water rate increase will become effective May 1, 2025. To learn more, visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/59ux2kap>



IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ORANGE LINE!

Improvements to the MTS Orange Line Trolley are on the way! On March 13th, I voted "YES" to the Orange Line Improvement Project in the amount of \$26,890,732.50. As you may know, I proudly serve on the MTS Board of Directors, where the honorable late Leon L. Williams once served.

The Orange Line operates along the Black Arts + Culture District in District 4, a 17-mile stretch from Downtown San Diego to East County. The project will allow the trolleys to operate at higher speeds, travel on the opposite track, reverse run, improve on-time performance, and provide more dependable services.

To read more about the MTS Orange Line Project, visit:

<https://www.sdmts.com/sites/default/files/2025-03-13-board-agenda-revised.pdf>

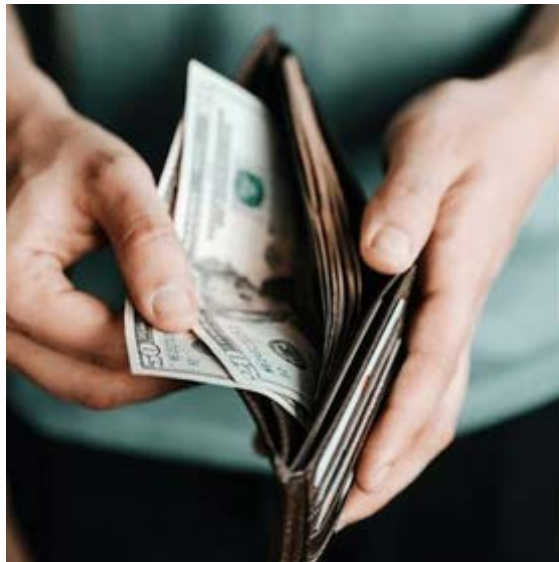


GOODWIN ON GLACIER

On March 25th, I voted "YES" to the loan agreement for Goodwin on Glacier housing development in Grantville. The new affordable housing project will bear the name of an unsung hero: Henrietta Goodwin. In 1913, Henrietta became the first African American student to graduate from San Diego State University! The project's location is along Glacier Ave. in District 7, hence the project name: Goodwin on Glacier!

The goal of the project is twofold: housing for seniors and honoring the legacy of Henrietta Goodwin. This much-needed housing project comes at a time when senior housing is in high demand. The 7-story affordable housing construction project will include 131 residential apartments, including 130 studio apartments for senior citizens, one unrestricted two-bedroom manager unit, and 19 parking spaces. Construction is set to begin in Spring 2026.

For more info, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2yjxbwtn>.



#SAVETHEDATE - MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING

The Mayor's Fiscal Year 2026 Draft Budget will be available on the Department of Finance (<https://www.sandiego.gov/finance/draft>) on April 15, 2025.

The proposed budget will be presented to Council on Monday, April 21st. You are welcome to attend and provide public comment (<https://www.sandiego.gov/cityclerk/participate>).

If you would like to provide feedback on your budget priorities now, you can do so here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3bjhjjmr>



CANNABIS EQUITY

The City of San Diego proposed to increase the cannabis business tax from 8% to 10%. The tax excludes cannabis production facilities. On March 25th, I voted "NO" on the proposal. As you may know, there are economic and social justice disparities in the cannabis industry.

We need to support people who were negatively impacted by the criminalization of cannabis during the War on Drugs era.

While I understand the importance of seeking new ways to generate revenue as we face a structural deficit, we should do our due diligence before increasing taxes on local cannabis businesses. This is why I simply can't support the tax increase. Thank you to everyone who provided public comments to raise awareness of equity in the cannabis industry.

As we work to address the disparate impact of the war on drugs, I am committed to creating opportunities for those affected to thrive in the cannabis industry.

To learn more about the City of San Diego Cannabis Equity Report, visit:

https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/report_without_attachments.pdf



KARINA BRINGS IT HOME

Meet Karina Velazquez of District 4! On March 25th, I voted "YES" on Karina's four-year appointment to the Community Reinvestment Review Advisory Committee. Karina is a Senior Program Officer for LISC San Diego and a former Program Manager for the Diamond Business Association. She also served as Chair of the Chollas Valley Planning Group in District 4. Karina brings a fresh perspective to the housing and financial sectors. Congratulations, Karina!



GET IT DONE



Paradise Hills #D4DumpsterDay

On March 8th, Team Foster joined the Paradise Hills Foundation for a Dumpster Day event in Paradise Hills. The community cleanup event helps people dispose of bulky items like mattresses, furniture, and household items. In just two hours, four dumpster bins were filled! Thank you to the Paradise Hills Foundation, Centro Familiar Cristiano, and all the volunteers who made #D4DumpsterDay a success!



I LOVE A CLEAN WEBSTER

On March 26th, I joined Cox Communications at their headquarters to kick off a community cleanup in the Webster neighborhood. The event was a volunteer partnership with Cox, I Love A Clean San Diego, and Tree San Diego.

Hundreds of volunteers showed up to plant trees, and at least 700 pounds of trash was collected. Thank you to Cox Communications for their efforts to improve our quality of life in District 4!



BEFORE



AFTER

JFK PARK IS READY FOR PLAY!

In collaboration with residents and the Mayor's Office, the Council District 4 team worked to revitalize and redevelop John F. Kennedy Neighborhood Park. This is a victory for our community! We must continue to invest in District 4 and ensure we are providing a safe and enjoyable space for the community.

The JFK Park upgrades include a new playground, picnic area, public restrooms, benches, trash and recycling receptacles, a drinking fountain, new security lighting, planting and irrigation upgrades, and on-street ADA parking. Thank you to our community recreation boards and our residents for their advocacy and engagement. Our residents now have a high-quality recreational space that will uplift our neighborhood and positively impact the quality of life for generations to come.

JFK Park is located at 4825 Ocean View Blvd, San Diego, CA 92113.



BEFORE



AFTER

San Vicente St. & Bonsall St. near Audubon School



BEFORE



AFTER

Skyline Dr. & Valencia Pkwy.

**TEAM FOSTER MONTHLY
'GET IT DONE' REPORTS
MARCH, 2025 - 312 REPORTS**



BEFORE

AFTER

Illegal Dumping @ S. Willie James Jones Ave. & Ocean View Blvd.



BEFORE

AFTER

Graffiti @ Akins St. & 65th St.



BEFORE

AFTER

Graffiti @ 60th & Brooklyn Ave.



BEFORE

AFTER

Illegal Dumping @ Elizabeth St. & Ocean View Blvd.



BEFORE

AFTER

Illegal Dumping @ Daisy Pl. & Daisy Way



BEFORE

AFTER

Striping Maintenance @ Brookhaven Rd. & S. Meadowbrook Dr.



BEFORE

AFTER

Graffiti @ Iona St. & Market St.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO SUBMIT A 'GET IT DONE' REPORT

<https://www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done>



JAN. 22 FLOOD-IMPACT RESOURCES

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT & STORM PREPAREDNESS IN DISTRICT 4 MEMORANDUM

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<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/cd4-memo-111824-storm-management-preparedness.pdf>

RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

<https://www.sandiego.gov/recovery>



PREPARING FOR RAIN

The City of San Diego is taking proactive steps to ensure the safety of residents living in floodplain areas by distributing educational pamphlets with vital information on how to prepare for potential flooding. The informational brochures, which were sent to about 10,000 residents who live in or own property in a floodplain, contain essential guidelines on emergency preparedness, evacuation plans, flood insurance and other critical flood-related resources. The pamphlets include important tips on:

- How to protect your property.
- What steps should be taken before, during, and after a flood.
- Understanding your potential flood risk.
- Purchasing flood insurance.
- How to contact the City for needed services.

Residents are encouraged to review the information and implement measures to protect against flood damage. To find out if your home is in a floodplain, visit sandiego.gov/floodplain. If needed, empty sandbags are available in District 4. Sandbags are limited to 10 bags per City of San Diego household or business, and sand is not provided. Call ahead for supply information:

MLK Recreation Center, 6401 Skyline Dr., San Diego, CA 92114. Phone: (619) 527-3415



#SHOPD4



'SOUL FOOD WITH A BLASIAN TWIST'

Lilly Nachampasak and Michael "Budda" Price are the food truck owners of Chef Budda Blasian Soul Food. Together, they have a recipe for success. You may have seen their food truck at this year's Daygo Eat. The food truck had a line of customers wrapped around the event. Michael grew up in Skyline Hills and Lily in City Heights. The couple met as students at Garfield High School and have been together ever since. They are the proud parents of Maliyah, a rising California All-Stars cheerleader.

Lily and Michael became food truck entrepreneurs amid the pandemic. Through grit and determination, they combined their skills. Michael is the chef, and Lily is the business manager. Chef Budda's menu features classic comfort foods like fried chicken, fried fish, mac 'n' cheese, and greens. They offer an assortment of Blasian-style dipping sauces, such as sweet and sour, Cajun ranch, BBQ, and tartar.

Lilly and Michael say the food truck business has been an incredible journey for their family. "I like being able to work, and it doesn't feel like a job," said Michael. "It's great to have Lily by my side." For Lily, there are lots of perks, too. "I love what we do," said Lily. "It's amazing to look back and know we went through all the stages of life together."

Chef Budda Blasian Soul Food is located at 3151 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92104 | @chefbuddablasiansoulfoods | chefbuddablasiansoulfood.com



FOSTER FRIDAYS

Your voice matters. That's why I created "Foster Fridays" to meet with you, the residents of District 4, on Fridays at the Southeastern Live Well Center. Email me to schedule an appointment: HenryFoster@sandiego.gov. I look forward to meeting you.

Office Hours: Fridays | 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Southeastern Live Well Center, 5101 Market St., San Diego, CA, 92114

WATCH COUNCIL MEETINGS LIVE ON CITYTV

WATCH COUNCIL MEETINGS LIVE ON CITYTV

<https://sandiego.granicus.com/player/camera/5?&redirect=true>

D4 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

<https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd4/communities>

CITY COUNCIL + COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

<https://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/meetings-calendar>

STAY INFORMED ABOUT PROJECTS & PLANNING UPDATES IN DISTRICT 4

SIGN - UP HERE

<https://tinyurl.com/mr3tjrbe>

TOPICS INCLUDE:

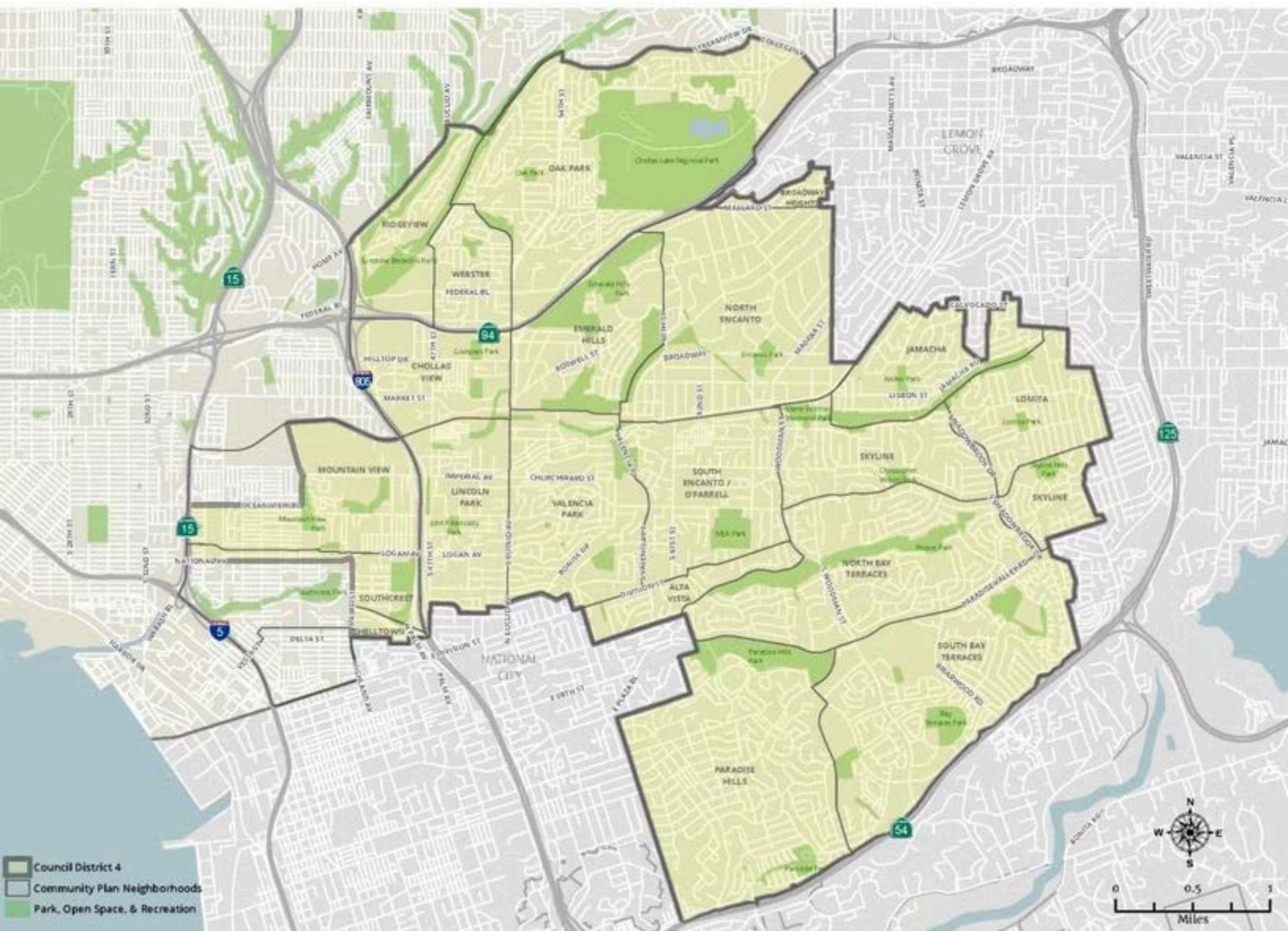
- Land Development Code Updates
- Encanto: Public Notices & Community Planning Group (CPG) Agendas
- Cannabis Updates
- Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan
- Planning Commission
- Skyline Paradise Hills: Public Notices & CPG Agendas
- Southeastern San Diego: Public Notices & CPG Agendas

DISTRICT 4 MAP

District 4 is comprised of 18 communities. It includes: Alta Vista, Broadway Heights, Chollas View, Emerald Hills, Encanto, Greater Skyline Hills, Jamacha, Lincoln Park, Lomita Village, Mountain View, North Bay Terraces, O'Farrell, Oak Park, Paradise Hills, Ridgeview, South Bay Terraces, Valencia Park, and Webster. This includes zip codes: 92102, 92105, 92113, 92114, 92115, and 92139. To find out where your Community Council Meetings are held visit [here](#).

We are the home of the Black Arts + Culture District.

Council District 4 Neighborhoods



MEET #TEAMFOSTER



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