



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

October 27, 2025

Honorable Maureen F. Hallahan
Presiding Judge
San Diego Superior Court
1100 Union Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: San Diego County Grand Jury Report, The Gaslamp Enforcement Team
Needs the Community's Help!**

Honorable Judge Hallahan,

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(c), the City of San Diego provides the attached response from the City Council and Mayor to the applicable findings and recommendations included in the above referenced Grand Jury Report.

If you require additional information, or have any questions, please contact Luz Anaya Luna, Director of Legislative Affairs, at lanayaluna@sandiego.gov.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Todd Gloria, written in a cursive style.

Todd Gloria
Mayor
City of San Diego

A blue ink signature of Joe LaCava, written in a cursive style.

Joe LaCava
Council President
City of San Diego

Enclosure:

1. City of San Diego Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled "The Gaslamp Enforcement Team Needs the Community's Help!"
2. City Council Resolution R-316458

**City of San Diego Response to
San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled
“The Gaslamp Enforcement Team Needs The Community’s Help!”**

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933(c), the City of San Diego provides the following response from the Mayor to the applicable findings and recommendations included in the above referenced Grand Jury Report. Additionally, the Mayor and City Council provide the following joint response on recommendation 5.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:

Finding 1: *Building confidence in public safety in the Gaslamp requires a concerted effort by day and nighttime Gaslamp Enforcement Teams.*

Response: The Mayor agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding.

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) agrees building confidence in public safety in the Gaslamp takes a coordinated effort, especially when it comes to community engagement. That’s why SDPD goes beyond the work of the Gaslamp Enforcement Teams to build connections and serve our communities.

Patrol officers, detectives, and citywide resources like the Neighborhood Policing Division and Homeless Outreach Teams dedicate significant time and attention to the Gaslamp Quarter.

Central Division’s management team regularly meets with the Downtown San Diego Partnership, the Gaslamp Quarter Association, the San Diego Padres, the San Diego Convention Center and other community groups. Reciprocally, these organizations have standing invitations to the monthly Captain’s Advisory Board meetings at Central Division.

The newly formed Downtown Response Team (DRT) addresses quality-of-life issues in the greater downtown area, which includes the Gaslamp Quarter. This team works to proactively address criminal activity and mitigate threats to large events.

The Gaslamp Walking Team was reinstated in August of 2025. This two-officer, full-time assignment will engage with residents and businesses in the Gaslamp Quarter during daytime hours, identify local problems, and work toward collaborative solutions.

Finding 2: *By adhering to the Neighborhood Policing policy and patrolling on bicycles during daylight hours, the Gaslamp Enforcement Team has the opportunity through community outreach to build the types of relationships with residents, visitors, and businesses that lead to crime reduction and trust in law enforcement.*

Response: The Mayor disagrees in part with the Grand Jury’s finding.

SDPD agrees that adherence to Neighborhood Policing principles increases trust and legitimacy within communities. This is a pillar of SDPD culture. Officers in every

assignment engage in community outreach and work to build relationships with residents, visitors, and businesses.

Bike officers support that mission and SDPD does employ them in the Gaslamp, but they also come with operational limitations this report does not address.

Officers deployed on bicycles are limited in their ability to respond to life-threatening emergencies compared to those in vehicles. Officers on bikes have limited or no access to life-saving equipment like defibrillators and medical kits; active-shooter response gear like patrol rifles and heavy body armor; less-lethal tools like beanbag shotguns; and computers for investigations and report-writing. They also must always account for and secure their police bikes and rely upon officers in vehicles to transport anyone in custody.

SDPD must balance the benefits of bike patrols with the reduced emergency response capacity they bring.

Finding 3: *The rise in crime combined with SDPD staff shortages make it even more critical for SDPD to garner the help of community members in reducing crime in the Gaslamp Quarter.*

Response: The Mayor agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

SDPD agrees and consistently finds ways to lead through community policing. SDPD members at all levels focus on building partnerships between law enforcement and the communities they serve to proactively address crime and public safety issues. Central Division command staff, Community Resource Officers, and patrol officers consistently attend a wide range of community meetings in addition to meeting with business owners, residents, and other stakeholders on a regular basis.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS 1-4:

Recommendations 1-4 are directed to only the Mayor, and as such, are approved by the Mayor only.

Recommendation 1: *Treat staff shortages as an opportunity to be creative and resourceful, and thereby, more effective with existing staff levels.*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

SDPD agrees that innovation in the face of staffing shortages is critical, but it's also important to understand the scale of the challenge. Nearly 30 years ago, when San Diego's population was 1.1 million, SDPD had over 2,300 budgeted officers. Today, with 300,000 more residents, SDPD has just 2,031 budgeted officers and an active staff closer to 1,800.

Because of these challenges, SDPD is constantly looking for new ways to balance the need for fast emergency response with the need for proactive, community-focused policing across the City.

As part of this effort, Central Division created the DRT to focus on quality-of-life and crime issues in the greater downtown area. DRT works closely with the Downtown San Diego Partnership, Gaslamp Quarter Association, and other community

stakeholders. The division uses a data-driven model to determine the most effective work schedule for DRT, and the DRT schedule was strategically chosen to make the greatest impact on the downtown area.

Central Division will assign two officers to the Gaslamp Walking Team. Historically, a daytime walking team has seen success in the Gaslamp Quarter. SDPD will continuously evaluate the efficacy of this team against the demands of 911 calls from the community.

On a citywide level, SDPD is always looking to leverage data to maximize staffing at divisions across the City, including Central Division.

Recommendation 2: *Maximize the use of officers patrolling on bicycles in the Gaslamp to include a dayshift, a minimum of five days a week and on weekends and holidays, to provide a highly visible and more effective police presence.*

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.

SDPD agrees the use of full-time bike officers in the Gaslamp District would be a benefit to the community. Unfortunately, this is not realistic given SDPD's current staffing situation. SDPD has made strides to increase foot and bike patrols in the Gaslamp Quarter during daytime hours but cannot commit any more full-time resources considering current response times to 911 calls. Currently, the average response time to a Priority 1 call in Central Division is 34.5 minutes, more than double the target time of 14 minutes. Priority 1 calls include armed robberies, assaults, and other immediate threats to physical safety.

DRT members are trained and can patrol on bicycles in the Gaslamp on occasions when the use of bicycles creates a more effective approach to safety, trust, and efficiency.

The implementation of the Gaslamp Walking Team will provide high visibility and a consistent presence for Gaslamp residents, visitors, and businesses.

Recommendation 3: *Mandate interpersonal skills training for the Gaslamp Enforcement Team with an emphasis on the application of SDPD's existing Neighborhood Policing guidelines.*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

SDPD has some of the highest training standards in the country. SDPD requires a full week of Advanced Officer Training every two years. This course, which is certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), includes classes on de-escalation, strategic communications, racial profiling, arrest and control, defensive tactics, and more.

Supervisors receive additional training each year during the annual Command Training, which in 2024 included the City of San Diego's Race and Equity Academy, crucial conversations, leadership, legal updates and managing civil disorder. In 2025 it will include field tactics scenarios, which includes de-escalation techniques and mental health updates among other contemporary topics.

Gaslamp Enforcement Team members receive semi-regular team-specific training on de-escalation, arrest and control tactics, interpersonal skills, and wellness.

Recommendation 4: *Direct the Gaslamp Enforcement Team to build trust by being more approachable and available to Gaslamp Quarter residents, visitors, and business owners with the objectives of deterring and preventing crime.*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

SDPD command staff, supervisors, and the Gaslamp Enforcement Team continue to focus on building trust and approachability with visitors, residents, business owners, and their staff. Command Staff has identified senior officers in the Gaslamp Enforcement Team and have established quarterly internal meetings to discuss current issues, future training, and resources requests.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 5:

Recommendation 5 is directed to both the Mayor and City Council, and as such, is approved by both the Mayor and City Council.

Recommendation 5: *Appropriate additional funding and resources to the SDPD to allow maximization of the number of officers patrolling on bicycles in the Gaslamp to include a dayshift, five days a week and on weekends and holidays.*

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.

As discussed in response to Recommendation 2, SDPD cannot increase the number of Officers patrolling in the Gaslamp given current sworn staffing. Moreover, SDPD currently has approximately 200 budgeted sworn positions that are vacant; allocating additional funding for new officers is not reasonable until existing vacancies are filled.

Requests for additional programmatic budget appropriations are proposed by City departments during the annual budget cycle. Requests are reviewed by the Mayor's Office and considered along with all other citywide needs and priorities. The Mayor releases a draft budget in April followed by a May Revision that is then reviewed and adopted by the City Council.

Should SDPD require and request additional funding for the Gaslamp Enforcement Team, this request will be included as part of the City's annual budget process and considered by the Mayor and the City Council.

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- **316458**DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE **OCT 07 2025**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SAN DIEGO APPROVING THE CITY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
TO 2024/2025 SAN DIEGO COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT
TITLED "THE GASLAMP ENFORCEMENT TEAM NEEDS
THE COMMUNITY'S HELP!"

RECITALS

The Council of the City of San Diego (Council) adopts this Resolution based on the following:

A. On May 27, 2025, the 2024/2025 San Diego County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) issued a report titled "The Gaslamp Enforcement Team Needs the Community's Help!" (Report) that outlines concerns about public safety, staffing shortages, and community trust in the Gaslamp Quarter, including a call for expanded daytime bicycle patrols and enhanced community engagement.

B. The Report included three findings and five recommendations, with one recommendation directed to both the Mayor and Council. The proposed joint Mayoral and Council response covers the three findings and five recommendations applicable to the City of San Diego (City) and is provided as Attachment 1 to the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) Report No. 25-29.

C. Under California Penal Code section 933(c), within 90 days after the filing of the Report, each public agency which the Grand Jury reviewed, and about which it issued the Report, must comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the agency.

D. The City requested and was granted a 90-day extension to respond, with the response now due to the Presiding Judge of the San Diego Superior Court by November 21, 2025.

E. The IBA has proposed a response to the Report as set forth in Attachment 1 of IBA Report No. 25-29, for the Mayor and Council's consideration. The IBA has conferred with the Mayor's staff who have approve the proposed response applicable to the Mayor, including the joint response to recommendation 5 directed to both the Mayor and Council.

F. The Office of the City Attorney prepared this Resolution based on the information provided by City staff including information provided by affected third parties and verified by City staff, with the understanding that this information is complete and accurate.

G. Under Charter section 280(a)(1), this Resolution is not subject to veto by the Mayor because this matter is exclusively within the Council's purview and does not affect the administrative service of the City under the Mayor's control.

ACTION ITEMS

Be it resolved by the Council of the City of San Diego:

1. The Council approves and adopts as its own the response to the 2024/2025 San Diego County Grand Jury Report titled "The Gaslamp Enforcement Team Needs the Community's Help!" as set forth in the proposed response applicable to the Council in IBA Report No. 25-29, dated September 4, 2025.

2. The Council President is authorized and directed, on behalf of the Council of the City of San Diego, to execute and deliver the above-described response to the Presiding Judge of the San Diego County Superior Court not later than November 21, 2025.

APPROVED: HEATHER FERBERT, City Attorney

By


Hilda R. Mendoza
Senior Deputy City Attorney

HRM:nja

September 10, 2025

Or. Dept: Compliance Department

Doc. No. 4185983

I certify that the Council of the City of San Diego adopted this Resolution at a meeting held on

OCT 07 2025

DIANA J.S. FUENTES
City Clerk

By


Deputy City Clerk

Passed by the Council of The City of San Diego on OCT 07 2025, by the following vote:

Councilmembers	Yeas	Nays	Not Present	Recused
Joe LaCava	☐	☐	☒	☐
Jennifer Campbell	☒	☐	☐	☐
Stephen Whitburn	☒	☐	☐	☐
Henry L. Foster III	☒	☐	☐	☐
Marni von Wilpert	☒	☐	☐	☐
Kent Lee	☒	☐	☐	☐
Raul A. Campillo	☒	☐	☐	☐
Vivian Moreno	☒	☐	☐	☐
Sean Elo-Rivera	☒	☐	☐	☐

OCT 07 2025

Date of final passage _____.

(Please note: When a resolution is approved by the Mayor, the date of final passage is the date the approved resolution was returned to the Office of the City Clerk.)

AUTHENTICATED BY:

(Seal)

TODD GLORIA

Mayor of The City of San Diego, California.

DIANA J.S. FUENTES

City Clerk of The City of San Diego, California.

By *Kristell Medina*, Deputy

Office of the City Clerk, San Diego, California

316458

Resolution Number R-_____