



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

October 20, 2025

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

Subject: San Diego County Grand Jury Report, *Parking Roulette in the City of San Diego*

Honorable Judge Hallahan,

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

If you require additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Piatanesi, Policy Advisor, at 619-236-6330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Gloria".

Todd Gloria
Mayor
City of San Diego

Attachments:

1. City of San Diego Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled "*Parking Roulette in the City of San Diego*"

cc: James Tuck, Foreperson, 2024/2025 San Diego County Grand Jury
Honorable Council President Joe LaCava and Members of the City Council
Honorable City Attorney Heather Ferbert
Paola Avila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst
Alia Khouri, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Kris McFadden, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Kristina Peralta, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Casey Smith, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Matthew Vespi, Chief Financial Officer
Robert Logan, Chief, Fire-Rescue Department

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Scott Wahl, Chief, Police Department

Randy Wilde, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Mayor

Christiana Gauger, Chief Compliance Officer

Trisha Tacke, Program Manager, Compliance Department

**City of San Diego Response to
San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled
“Parking Roulette in the City of San Diego”**

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.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:

Finding 1: *Community Parking Districts generally do not operate as independent and accountable entities, do not meet the stipulated transparency requirements of their agreements with the City of San Diego, spend a significant percentage of allotted revenues on administrative costs, and create unnecessary layers of bureaucracy.*

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

The City of San Diego recently completed a review of the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Parking District program. The program review found that the majority of Community Parking District managing organizations were unable to provide documentation required by their contracts, many had concerning contract management practices related to subcontractor agreements, fees, and invoicing, and the majority of program funds were going to administrative expenses and low priority projects. The City of San Diego is currently evaluating updates to this program.

Finding 2: *As indicated in the January 2025 Parking Demand Management Study as well as Community Parking District meeting notes, parking meter signage could be improved, especially in areas relying on multi-space meters.*

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

The City agrees that the January 2025 Parking Demand Management Study recommended that the City consider adding mid-block signage on longer blocks, in addition to the signage installed at the beginning and end of the block. The City has not been provided with copies of the referenced Community Parking District meeting notes that are part of this finding, so it cannot agree with this portion of the finding.

Finding 3: *Not all private parking lots clearly advertise their prices so drivers can see them from the street.*

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

The City agrees that the Parking Demand Management Study recommended that “[t]o encourage utilization of the private facilities, and reduce demand for on-street parking, the City should require all public and private public parking facilities to clearly indicate the paid parking rates at a size that can be easily viewed from the street before entering a garage or lot.” However, the report does not explicitly state that there are private parking lots that do not clearly advertise their prices so drivers can see them from the street. Because the City has not collected data on private lots to determine if this is true or not, it is unable to agree with this finding.

Finding 4: *Signage associated with Petco events is not consistent with City standards for special events concerning type, placement, and information displayed.*

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

The main points of concern from the Grand Jury on this issue are the lack of specific information on the temporary signs and the desire for "A-frame" signage along the sidewalk every 20 feet within the areas specified. The City agrees with the need for better communication on the temporary signs, and will make appropriate changes, but disagrees with the request for additional A-frame signs along the sidewalk.

The requirement for temporary A-frame signs intermittently spaced along the sidewalk of most special events is to advise citizens of a pending change to the current parking situation. Petco Park is a permanent event venue and is active well over 100 times a year. Citizens driving through the area are objectively aware of the park's presence and purpose. The current permanent signage also alerts drivers of the presence of potential *no parking* rules with the affixed temporary signs advising of the specific dates and times of enforcement. This is not unlike other locations within the City where permanent signs advise of *no parking* enforcement for specific days of the week or month.

The A-frames used in short term special events are clearly visible, but that visibility is primarily due to its prominence and the sidewalk space they require. To cover the area bounded by the Ballpark Protection Zone, at 20-foot increments, would require a significant number of frames and have a negative impact on the already heavy pedestrian traffic both during and outside of event times.

Within the Ballpark Protection Zone, as well as surrounding streets, the City has implemented a digital parking payment process where patrons can pay the parking fee through an app accessed via QR codes on permanent signs and parking meters, as well as parking meter kiosks. During the affected *no parking* events, the meters will not accept payment and let drivers know it is during a *no parking* time. The parking app will also provide a notice of pending dates and times of future *no parking* events, which will give the driver additional information to the posted signage they can keep.

Finding 5: *The City has not been transparent about its own handling of parking meter revenues collected directly by the City outside of the Community Parking Districts.*

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

While the annual budget document includes budget information about the Parking Meter Operations Fund, the City acknowledges that this may not provide the level of detail that may be desired. The City is currently working to develop a process to communicate to the public how the use of all parking meter revenue is budgeted and reported.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1: *Disband Community Parking Districts and allow Community Planning Groups to fulfill their advisory role and manage funds previously allocated to Community Parking Districts.*

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

The City of San Diego recently completed a review of the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Parking District program. The program review found that the majority of Community Parking District managing organizations were unable to provide documentation required by their contracts, many had concerning contract management practices related to subcontractor agreements, fees, and invoicing, and the majority of program funds were going to administrative expenses and low priority projects. The City of San Diego is currently evaluating updates to this program, but does not recommend allocating the funds to Community Planning Groups in lieu of the Community Parking Districts. Given the findings of the recent review of the program and the challenges experienced with external groups managing these funds, many of the same issues would likely arise with Community Planning Groups.

Recommendation 2: *Standardize and improve signage related to multi-space parking meters.*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The City's Transportation Department and Office of the City Treasurer standardized signage related to multi-space parking meters in July 2025, and this signage was implemented along 5th Avenue in Downtown. This standard signage will continue to be installed as new multi-space parking meters are installed throughout the City, and as single space meters are converted to multi-space parking meters. Additionally, the City will continue to install mid-block signage on long blocks where there are multi-space parking meters, consistent with the recommendations of the January 2025 Parking Demand Management Study.

Recommendation 3: *Require commercial parking lots to display their parking rates.*

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

The City of San Diego does not currently have an enforcement mechanism to require private commercial parking lots to display their parking rates. With limited capacity, the City must prioritize the enforcement of on-street parking requirements and parking at public facilities. Establishing a new policy and enforcement program for private lots would require significant resources, but may be considered in the future.

Recommendation 4: *Modify the Petco Park Event Transportation and Parking Management Plan to reflect City of San Diego standards for special event parking signage.*

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

The current process provides drivers with notice they are parking within a Petco special event location where they are subject to *no parking* restrictions. The specific times of enforcement are also posted and reinforced when they attempt to make a

payment for their space. Therefore, the City does not agree with changing the signage process. The City will, however, add additional contact information to its temporary signage and continually evaluate potential digital notification improvements.

Recommendation 5: *Publish parking meter revenue and spending data, including for meters operated by the City of San Diego in areas outside of Community Parking Districts.*

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The City of San Diego is currently developing a process to publish parking meter revenue and spending data. This is anticipated to be implemented for Fiscal Year 2026 and published in the fall of 2026, then published annually thereafter.