



CITY OF SAN DIEGO • COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 7

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

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Councilmember Campillo, Along with Downtown Workers and Business Leaders, Proposes Rollback of Downtown Special Event Parking Fees

SAN DIEGO — Today, San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo announced a proposal to roll back Downtown Special Event Parking Fees, citing concerns that the policy unfairly burdens residents, workers, and small businesses.

Speaking at City Hall with downtown workers and business leaders, Campillo said the fees implemented last fall have made downtown less accessible during major events.

“Downtown San Diego should be welcoming and accessible—not punitive,” **Campillo said**. “These fees are hurting residents, discouraging customers, and forcing workers to pay premium prices just to go to work. We need to restore balance.”

The City’s Special Event Parking Fees raised hourly rates to \$10, extended enforcement to six hours, and applied fees across a broad area surrounding Petco Park.

Under Campillo’s proposal—dubbed the **5/5/5 Plan**—the City would:

- Reduce the hourly special event rate from \$10 to \$5
- Shorten the enforcement window from six hours to five
- Limit the special event parking zone to five blocks around Petco Park

“These are reasonable, targeted changes that still manage event demand without penalizing everyday San Diegans,” **Campillo said**.

Hospitality workers said the fees disproportionately affect those with no choice but to park downtown.

“The California Restaurant Association, San Diego County Chapter commends Councilmember Raul Campillo for his leadership in introducing a proposal that will significantly reduce the current cost to park in downtown San Diego,” **said Sarah Mattinson, President of the California Restaurant Association, San Diego County Chapter**, “We believe all San Diegan’s want our City to be inviting, where individuals and families can visit, support local businesses while ensuring parking remains affordable.”

“With the City’s new parking rates spiking during Special Events, we aren’t inviting people with open arms – we’re greeting them with an entrance fee,” **said Betsy Brennan, President & CEO, Downtown San Diego Partnership**. “We need to keep Downtown a place that all San Diegans are able to afford.”

“San Diego’s success depends on accessibility and affordability for visitors, residents and the thousands of hospitality employees who keep our tourism economy running,” **said Fred Tayco, SDCLA’s Executive Director**. “We support a transparent, data-driven process that evaluates whether current parking policies are meeting their intended goals without pricing people out of San Diego’s tourism-driving events.”

Campillo said he will work with the City Attorney to draft amendments to the San Diego Municipal Code and City Council policy and will ask the Council President to schedule the item for consideration by the City Council’s Rules Committee.

“We can support special events without punishing the people who live, work, and do business downtown,” **Campillo said**.

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