



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BUDGET CHAIR FOSTER BRINGS POLICE SETTLEMENT COSTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY BEFORE COMMITTEE

SAN DIEGO — Today, the City Council's Budget and Government Efficiency Committee will hear Item 7, a presentation examining City of San Diego settlements and judgments, with a particular focus on the San Diego Police Department.

Councilmember Henry L. Foster III, Chair of the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee, requested the item to provide greater transparency into the City's rising liability costs, identify recurring patterns and examine whether corrective actions are preventing future harm.

Since Fiscal Year 2017, the City has paid more than \$116 million in San Diego Police Department settlements and judgments. That includes approximately \$42.6 million during the current fiscal year and the recent \$30 million Kanoa Wilson settlement, one of the largest police-related settlements in City history.

"These costly settlements represent families and communities that have experienced real harm, and public dollars that can no longer be invested in libraries, parks, recreation centers, sidewalks, streets and the neighborhood services our residents deserve," said Councilmember Henry L. Foster III, Chair of the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee. "Our communities should not be forced to carry the burden of repeated failures without answers, accountability or meaningful change. This is an equity issue and a public trust issue."

The presentation will examine settlement and judgment payments, claim counts, liability trends and the types of claims involving SDPD. Foster will ask staff to provide clearer information on recurring allegations, corrective actions taken following major settlements and how the City measures whether changes to policy, training, supervision and operations are working.

The item builds on Foster's continued advocacy for strong, independent police oversight. He stepped in to serve on the selection panel for the Commission on Police Practices Executive Director, supported the Internal Affairs audit and, as Budget Chair, took action to secure funding for the Commission's case management software.

Effective oversight requires qualified leadership, adequate resources, the right tools, access to information and the independence necessary to identify patterns, examine misconduct and ensure corrective action follows.

During today's meeting, Foster will also request for staff to return annually with this presentation before the release of the Mayor's Proposed Budget. Incorporating the review into the budget process will allow the City Council to better understand the City's risk, evaluate whether mitigation efforts are effective and make more informed decisions as good stewards of public dollars.

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Councilmember Foster represents San Diego's Fourth Council District, including communities of 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.

Councilmember Foster is the Chair of the Budget & Government Efficiency Committee, Vice Chair of the Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Vice Chair of the Audit Committee, Member of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, and Member of the Community & Neighborhood Services Committee.