



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Joe Garcia | Josephag@sanidiego.gov | 619-510-9347
Courtney Zuñiga-Pittam | pittamcg@sanidiego.gov | 805-801-9106

City Council Rules Committee Unanimously Approves Free Beach and Mission Bay Parking Ordinance Authored by Council President LaCava and Councilmember Campillo

SAN DIEGO — Today, the San Diego City Council’s Rules Committee unanimously approved an ordinance to preserve free parking at local beaches and Mission Bay in perpetuity authored by San Diego City Council President Joe LaCava and Councilmember Raul Campillo. The Committee voted for the ordinance to apply to City residents only and removed a ten-year sunset clause, unanimously advancing the item to the full City Council for final approval.

“Councilmember Campillo’s initial proposal aligned with my held belief that beaches and Mission Bay should be accessible and free to San Diegans,” said Council President Joe LaCava. “By repositioning this from a ballot measure to an ordinance, I saw the opportunity to save taxpayers nearly \$1 million through Council action and not a public vote. Advancing this proposal ensures that these prized public parking spaces will be available at no cost to San Diegans.”

Currently, the City does not charge for parking in beach and bay parking lots that it owns and operates. The proposed ordinance would ensure that parking in City-owned beach and bay parking lots remains free of charge for City of San Diego residents.

“Together, the Council President and I brought this item forward to make sure the City learns from the lessons that the parking fees at Balboa Park pointed out,” said Councilmember Raul

Campillo. “This ordinance is about ensuring that access to our most treasured public spaces remains clear and protected for the people of San Diego – and it’s just one part of a larger series of transparency and accountability initiatives I will be bringing forward in an effort to build trust and clean up City Hall to ensure we have the right protocols in place moving forward.”

The ordinance would help preserve access to beaches and bays for residents while maintaining the City’s long-standing practice of providing free parking in these coastal lots. The ordinance would not apply to existing parking meters, inhibit the City’s ability to cite parking violations, nor prevent the City from regulating commercial activity or permitted events.

“Mission Bay Park is a regional park that serves residents from across the entire City of San Diego, not only those who live in Pacific Beach,” said Dr. Marcella Bothwell, Chair of the Pacific Beach Planning Group. “Free, accessible parking on City-owned lots is essential to equitable public access for San Diegans citywide including families, workers, seniors, and visitors from every neighborhood who rely on these coastal resources for recreation, health, and community life. Codifying free beach and bay parking in the Municipal Code will provide needed certainty, protect equitable coastal access for residents throughout the City, and avoid the kind of public-trust erosion seen in recent paid-parking experiments elsewhere in San Diego.”

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About City Council District 1

Council President Joe LaCava represents San Diego’s First Council District, which includes the communities of La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and a portion of University City west of the 1-5.

About City Council District 7

The Seventh Council District of the City of San Diego is proudly represented by Councilmember Raul Campillo, who serves as Chair of the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. His top priorities include improving public safety and fiercely advocating for increased transparency, opportunity, and access in District 7 and beyond. [Sign up here](#) for district-wide updates and more.