



For Immediate Release

February 17, 2022

Contact: Moriah Gaynor

mgaynor@saniego.gov

C: 619-510-6870

Councilmember LaCava Cements Fee Solution for Nonprofits, Accommodates Fiscal Recovery Time and Gradual Increase

San Diego — At the February 14 Council hearing, Councilmember LaCava received unanimous approval for his amendment to more slowly phase an increase in special event fees for nonprofits over four years instead of two. This change will significantly lessen the burden for nonprofits, doubling their recovery time for COVID-19 related revenue loss while maintaining some City fee revenue. The hourly rate for police officers at special events will now increase from \$55 to \$72 in FY24, to \$89 in FY25, to \$104 in FY26, and finally to \$119 in FY27; as opposed to jumping to \$119 in FY2025

This is the first time the City's user fees have been raised since 2013, with some plateauing since 2003.

"While the City needs to recover its costs in providing special services, it can reduce the sticker shock of catching up after past administrations failed to implement incremental fee adjustments over a reasonable timeframe," **said Councilmember LaCava**. "Our own Five-Year Financial Outlook predicts that the City will not recover from COVID-19 until FY2026, yet the original proposal imposed substantial fee increases on nonprofits in 2024. These nonprofit sponsored special events increase our quality of life and add to the city's economy. I crafted a solution to meet the need of both the City and our community partners."

"We are grateful that Councilmember LaCava's amendment softens the blow to nonprofit organizations that are still struggling to recover. This approach allows time for the City to work with stakeholders to explore solutions that are more equitable and sustainable for everyone," **said Jen LaBarbera, director of education and advocacy at San Diego Pride**. "While there's still work to be done to mitigate the impacts of these user fee increases, we're glad to have an ally in Councilmember LaCava for those conversations as we move forward."

The San Diego Event Coalition is extremely grateful for Councilmember Joe LaCava's amendment to the proposed fee increase for police and for acknowledging the San Diego's Event community's value to the City of San Diego's economy," **said Laurel McFarlane, president of the San Diego Event Coalition**. "Councilmember LaCava listened to event industry professionals and the nonprofit communities as we explained the hardship the increases would be for an industry so devastated by the pandemic. He stepped up to help and having an ally for the Event industry is very much appreciated. We look forward to working further with Councilmember LaCava on a solution that is equitable and fair with the input of all stakeholders."

Councilmember Joe LaCava represents San Diego City Council District 1, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City.

+++++