



Office of Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry
San Diego City Council
District 1

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Moriah Gaynor

mgaynor@sandiego.gov

C: (619) 207-8616

A Continued Lack of Transparency and Accountability

San Diego— This afternoon, the City Council voted on four important items -- how to conduct the public's business during the COVID-19 health emergency, whether to allocate additional funds for 101 Ash Street (two items), and certifying the results of the March 3, 2020 municipal election. In each case, I voted in favor of accountability and transparency.

I voted as follows:

- **Item 625 – Yes;** I suggested an amendment that all committee meetings resume in May so that the public can more effectively engage with the Council. The amendment was not accepted.
- **Items 622 and 624 – No;** 101 Ash Street continues to cost taxpayers \$18,000 per day for a building we cannot occupy. Our post-COVID budget realities cannot support expenditures for remediation of an empty building at \$325 per hour. Now is not the time to be spending more money on 101 Ash Street. Rather, it is a time to reconsider how, where and when employees work, whether we need this building, and to examine ways of extricating the city from the lease. Despite my objection, a majority of the Council approved both items.
- **Item 626 – No;** The Council was asked to change the certification language to say that the measure had not lost even though it did not get the two-thirds threshold that the ballot measure said was required. I voted for Measure C, and I'm disappointed that it was not approved by voters. However, the measure clearly told voters that it required two-thirds approval. I believe that modifying the resolution to avoid acknowledging this reality was to break faith with the voters. Despite my objection, the Council passed this item on a 5-3 vote.

These are unprecedented times. How we move forward today sets the stage for our success in overcoming the challenging times that lie ahead. Accountability and transparency are more important than ever.

Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry 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.

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