



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

For Immediate Release

June 9, 2020

Contact: Moriah Gaynor

mgaynor@sandiego.gov

C: (619) 207-8616

San Diego City Council Approves Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget That Preserves Neighborhood Services

San Diego — COVID-19 has upended life and George Floyd’s murder has made us pause, listen, reflect, and — most importantly — act. After nearly 12 hours, hundreds of phone testimonies, and thousands of emailed statements, I along with a majority of my City Council colleagues voted “Yes” on approving the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

This budget is not perfect. It relies on short-term fixes rather than addressing long-term issues like 101 Ash Street and development of a long-term real estate strategy. But it preserves basic neighborhood services and enables police reform to move forward.

I requested an amendment to defund the still vacant 101 Ash Street and direct the annual \$10M in savings to:

- South University City Fast Response Squad-- \$389,000
- Clerk translation services -\$25,000
- Remainder of about \$9.6M to be allocated to the Covid-19 rental assistance fund

I am disappointed that the Council President rejected my amendment, but I am pleased that neighborhood services were restored to Fiscal Year 2020 levels. Our libraries and recreation centers will remain open. Code compliance will be made whole. Trees will be planted, brush will be removed and graffiti abated. The Council allocated \$1.5M for a person-centric homeless outreach program. In addition, the Council approved Councilmember Monica Montgomery’s recommendation for the creation of an office on race and equity to focus on healing race relations and disparity in our city.

It’s clear that our FY 2021 budget is dependent on concluding the transaction with SDSU for the Mission Valley site. The Council is supposed to vote on the purchase and sales agreement on June 16.

We did not defund the San Diego Police Department because, to help restore trust in our police department, we need to focus more on neighborhood policing which means recruiting more officers committed to this approach, providing them with better training and support, and strengthening community oversight. That is why I continue to support the ballot measure for a community-led independent police review board with subpoena power. As Chair of the Budget Committee, I will request regular expenditure updates, and I am asking that the Council host public discussion about implementation of the Campaign Zero policies.

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.

###