




**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD  
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 16, 2017

TO: Councilmember Chris Cate, Chair, Public Safety and Livable  
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Councilmember Christopher Ward, Third Council District 

SUBJECT: Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee Priorities for 2017

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In response to your request for priorities for the Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee, I offer the following suggestions as we develop our work plan:

*San Diego Police Department*

- Despite the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the City and the Police Officers Association last year, recruitment and retention of SDPD sworn officers remains a concern. Staffing levels need to be regularly examined at the committee in order to keep the public aware of these challenges and provide the committee an opportunity to make recommendations and adjustments.
- The committee should be provided updates on progress towards the five-year plan for the Police Department, which calls for staffing levels of 2124 officers, to ensure that while we address retention, we remain committed to recruitment and the growth of the department to meet the needs of our neighborhoods.
- Like many City facilities, SDPD buildings have suffered from deferred maintenance and lack of capital improvements. I ask the committee to review the building assessments of SDPD facilities included in the report to the Infrastructure Committee, specifically facilities for Traffic Division, K9 and SWAT teams.
- AB 953 requires law enforcement agencies to collect basic information on police stops in responses to growing concerns about racial profiling and police misconduct. I ask the committee to provide an update, cost estimate and status of implementation.
- While planning occurs for the future of the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot, the committee should consider SDPD's use of that property for its Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC). Redevelopment of that site may require relocation or an alternative plan for EVOC training for our police officers.
- Propositions 47 and 57 impact our officers interaction related due to reclassification of criminal offenses. I request you docket an update on both Propositions' impact from SDPD and the City Attorney to ensure we remain aware of all public safety trends. Additionally, I request the committee works with the Mayor's Director of State

Government Affairs so we are positioned to secure our share of expected State budget savings.

- Thanks to increased compensation approved in 2016, wait times for 911 are meeting stated goals and vacancies are being filled. However, wait times for the police non-emergency lines continue to be problematic. The committee should request analysis on potential changes to automate and improve (619)531-2000 and explore how these may better integrate under a 311 system.
- AB 2298 requires notice before designating someone as a suspected gang member. I ask that the committee to work with the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention to work on implementation and development of best practices.
- The committee should receive periodic updates on the implementation of the new Computer Assisted Dispatch System to ensure it remains on track and service is uninterrupted.
- The committee should be briefed on the purchase, use policy, and deployment of technological law enforcement tools by SDPD including body-worn cameras, shot-spotters, license plate readers, etc. to ensure proper and responsible implementation.
- With the passage of Measure G in November 2016, the committee should receive regular updates from the Community Review Board on Police Practices to demonstrate transparency and ensure independence of the Board.

#### *San Diego-Fire Rescue*

- While the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department has not seen the same decrease and attrition in staff as the SDPD, we have only see the department grow from 858 individuals in 2004 to 863 individuals in 2017. I request the committee study what appropriate staffing levels are to meet our increased population and calls for service in our neighborhoods.
- The committee should be provided an update on the implementation of the Citygate report, particularly planned facilities and future operational costs. Additionally, the committee should update the report and needs-list accordingly.
- Update the committee on plans for the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department to run a paramedic training program, specifically related to budget and projected number of recruits in FY 2018.
- The committee should provide oversight of emergency medical services-related contracts and services to ensure compliance, improve response times, and to ensure the best delivery of services.

#### *San Diego Lifeguards*

- Update the committee on annual rescue numbers – including ocean, river, and cliff teams.

#### *Homelessness Programs and Services*

- The committee should urge the Mayor and City Council to declare a State of Emergency on Homelessness. Similar efforts across the nation have enabled localities to fast-track and create streamlined processes for the construction of affordable housing, have provided cities with more administrative authority and flexibility in contracting for services and allocating resources in response to the homelessness crisis. Such declarations also made it

easier for nonprofits and faith-based institutions to operate shelters and safe parking programs, and has also opened up the possibility for the use of city facilities for the same purpose. In doing so, the City will also call on state and federal partners to intervene and provide additional investments in the support systems that have been defunded or simply underfunded to meet the growing level of need.

- The committee should develop a work plan for a five-year commitment to reduce homelessness with measurable objectives and ongoing assessment of efforts.
- The committee should receive regular updates and provide oversight over the *Housing our Heroes: The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative* in addition to the San Diego Housing Commission's Homelessness Action Plan.
- In partnership with the Smart Growth and Land Use Committee, the Office of the City Attorney, and the San Diego Housing Commission, identify long-standing nuisance properties such as run-down motels and/or dilapidated or abandoned residential buildings. Cities have compelled the owners of nuisance properties to correct those conditions. If the owner fails to do so, the municipality can use its powers to correct, or abate, the conditions itself. Nuisance abatements have presented unique opportunities to convert property to affordable housing or supportive housing, and have helped to restore the quality of life in neighborhoods.
- The committee should review and update policies related to inclement weather shelter for the homeless. Discussion should include the criteria for and definition of inclement weather, the notification process, and the process for siting/placement of temporary shelter(s).
- The committee should undergo a comprehensive review of its homeless services providers and associated Conditional Use Permits to ensure the best and most efficient use of resources. The ongoing monitoring will ensure that services are achieving desired results and are in line with best practices.
- The committee should request a status update regarding the timeline for the relocation of the Neil Good Day Center.
- The committee should monitor the City's Serial Inebriate Program and Homeless Outreach Team to review efficacies, ensure they have adequate resources to fulfill their purpose, and identify necessary expansion opportunities.
- The committee should review policies and procedures that address the environmental conditions of our streets where homeless individuals congregate and aim to provide clean and safe conditions (i.e. provide trash bins, sanitary facilities, public restrooms; restrict street food or amenity provisions; etc.).

#### *Human Trafficking*

- The committee should receive updates from those involved in increasing awareness and combatting human trafficking and look for additional collaboration between SDPD, the City Attorney, the District Attorney, and federal agencies.

#### *Implementation of the Adult Use of Marijuana Act*

- The committee should ensure that the City is responsibly regulating use, business license requirements, and other requirements outside the purview of the Smart Growth and Land Use Committee to reduce potential impacts and maintain public safety and neighborhood quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities. If you have any questions please contact my office at (619) 236-6633.

cc:

Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer

Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliot

Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst

Liz Maland, City Clerk

Allen Young, Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee Consultant