



OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM STEPHEN WHITBURN THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT

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RESPONSE TO STATE OF THE CITY

SAN DIEGO, CA – San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn (District 3) issued the following statement regarding Mayor Gloria's State of the City address:

Today is a new day. As a longtime San Diegan, I have never seen the kind of partnership that we have now between the Mayor, the City Council, and our residents. Mayor Gloria's straightforward and transparent approach is refreshing. Although we have a lot of work ahead of us, I know our city can overcome these challenges.

On Homelessness: Housing is a right, not a privilege. I appreciate Mayor Gloria's renewed focus on Housing First, because housing stability will create a foundation for our residents experiencing homelessness to improve their lives. As the representative for District 3, I look forward to working with the Mayor to take action and provide permanent housing and supportive services to help San Diegans get back on their feet.

Housing: I was pleased to hear Mayor Gloria discuss increasing affordable housing for middle-income San Diegans. For too long, our development has focused on luxury housing that is not accessible for most of our residents. I was also pleased to hear about his plans to increase our housing supply, such as incorporating housing into designs for redeveloped or new city facilities. In order to address our city's housing crisis, we must explore these types of innovative ideas.

Racial Justice and Police Reform: As a member of the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee, I was pleased to hear the Mayor discuss the need for further improving our policies and increasing police accountability, including fully funding the new independent Commission on Police Practices. These are imperative to building relationships and trust within our communities.

Environmental Justice and Climate Action: I agree with Mayor Gloria on the need to create a climate equity fund to support our historically underserved communities, and the need to

update the Climate Action Plan. His commitment to initiatives like moving all city facilities to 100 percent renewable energy and adopting electric vehicles are some of the necessary steps we must take to achieve our goals and ensure a more sustainable and equitable future for San Diegans.

Pandemic Response: I join Mayor Gloria in underscoring the severity of the COVID-19 crisis and in putting the health and well-being of San Diegans first. I look forward to supporting the Mayor's efforts to provide more rent relief for our residents.

Infrastructure: I support the Mayor in a new approach to improving our infrastructure, including ensuring that all communities, especially those that have been neglected in the past, receive their fair share of repaved roads and other improvements to their neighborhoods.

Cross-Border Collaboration: Our border is an opportunity, not a threat. I support reversing federal policies that prioritized the construction of the border wall over our communities. I support the Mayor's commitment to binational collaboration, including addressing pollution and sewage spills, making border crossings more efficient, and improving quality of life for our binational communities.

Through all of these struggles, we see hope.

True leadership begins and ends with the ability to bring people together and enact change through collaboration, not division. In this, Mayor Gloria is off to a tremendous start.

Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn represents San Diego's Third Council District, including communities of Downtown, Little Italy, Bankers Hill, Mission Hills, Middletown, Hillcrest, University Heights, North Park, Normal Heights, Old Town, South Park, and Golden Hill.

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