



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

NEWS RELEASE

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City Council Unanimously Approves \$3.3 Billion City Budget
Funding for Balboa Park, Arts and Culture, Neighborhood Libraries, and Minimum Wage Implementation

SAN DIEGO (June 13, 2016) – Councilmember Todd Gloria, in his sixth and final year as Chair of the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee, announced the City Council’s approval of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget with a General Fund of \$1.32 billion. The budget was approved by unanimous vote.

“Today’s approved budget dedicates vital funding to our City’s crown jewel, Balboa Park, local streets and roads, neighborhood libraries, and arts and culture,” said Councilmember Todd Gloria. **“I am excited to see funding allocated towards critical needs like infrastructure, addressing our police department’s retention and dispatcher issues, and implementing the will of 63% of voters that approved the City’s minimum wage ordinance which will immediately help over 170,000 San Diegans make ends meet.”**

Councilmember Gloria advocated for several of the following budgetary priorities which were included in the approved budget.

- \$1.5 million for the rehabilitation of the Thompson Medical Library/Eddy Auditorium building at Balboa Park.
- \$350,000 for the replacement of 100 light posts within the Central Mesa of Balboa Park in Fiscal Year 2017.
- \$94,588 to fund an additional Grounds Maintenance Supervisor for Balboa Park to increase supervision of crews and enhance maintenance service levels in the park.
- \$400,000 for Earned Sick Leave and Minimum Wage Ordinance Administration and Enforcement as mandated by 63% of voters that approved the measure in the primary election.
- \$1.2 million towards the Penny for the Arts Blueprint goal increasing the city’s contribution from 6.44% to approximately 7%.
- \$500,000 for additional programming at libraries throughout the City as recommended by the City’s Independent Budget Analyst.

During the budget process City Councilmembers issued memoranda listing priority projects to be funded through the issuance of an upcoming infrastructure bond expected to generate approximately \$90 million. Councilmember Gloria requested \$1.3 million from that bond be dedicated for necessary work to rehabilitate the Balboa Park Botanical Building.

Throughout the month of May, Councilmember Gloria chaired several hearings focused on the budget, which saw robust participation from residents and community groups eager to provide feedback to refine the Mayor's initial proposal. All Councilmembers were invited to submit budget prioritization memos as part of this public budgeting process, which helped build the consensus that produced the budget adoption today.

The City Council continued their proven track record in fiscal responsibility as championed by Councilmember Gloria over his six years as Budget Committee chair. The budget fully funds all the City's reserves to target levels. Sensible decisions including paying the City's pension obligations in full and on time for twelve consecutive years and developing a prudent reserve policy have led to San Diego's favorable bond rating being reaffirmed earlier this year.

"I am proud of the transparent and inclusive budget process the City has advanced over my years as Chair of the Budget Committee. Many community members took time to provide their input, much of which has been incorporated in today's adopted budget which funds top priorities citywide," said Councilmember Gloria. **"I am proud to have left San Diego's financial condition in far better shape than I found it and encourage future Councils to continue to build on the foundation of fiscal prudence and responsible budgeting we developed over my time as Budget Chair."**

The FY 2017 budget also includes significant public safety funding including \$4 million to enhance police officer recruitment and retention efforts, an additional \$651,636 to address dispatcher staffing, \$21.7 million in new infrastructure expenditures, and funding to implement new labor agreements with the City's employees.

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