The People's Councilmember Monica Montgomery Council District 4

Important COVID-19 Weekly Update June 5, 2020



Dear Community,

We have reached a defining moment in American history. A history where we have often seen bloodshed precipitate and force real changes to occur. My heart and prayers are with all the victims and families of police violence. Too many names. Too many hashtags. Too many lives ended before they could really begin.

The unnecessary and excruciating death of George Floyd has created a national movement. People are tired. People are hurting. Hearts and spirits are broken. For the past eleven days, I have experienced the gamut of emotions, including waves of horror, anger, hurt, sadness, and pain only to arrive at what initially motivated me to run for political office –resolve. A resolve to continue to advocate for police reform through accountability and transparency measures.

In good conscience, we cannot call for calm from the community without addressing the inequity in enforcement, and the systemic racism that is prevalent in our nation.



From day one, I have listened to my community, partnered with organizers and activists, on the crusade to champion a holistic approach to police reform. An approach that includes changes in use of force policies, along with economic investment in communities of color.

In a stunning move this week (led by San Diego), we have seen the region's law enforcement agencies collectively ban the use of the carotid restraint. For years, the Racial Justice Coalition, the Coalition for Police Accountability and Transparency (CPAT), Black Men and Women United, and the historic NAACP have called for a ban on the use of this chokehold. But make no mistake – another loss of Black life had to precipitate real change.

<u>A 2016 SDSU study</u> documented that racial profiling and disparities occur in traffic stops by the San Diego Police Department within communities of color. We know this. Additionally, a more recent <u>ACLU Campaign Zero Report</u> found that San Diego Police stop Black people at a rate 219 Percent higher than White people.

We must genuinely and honestly address this data. The time is now. Our region can no longer marginalize whole segments of society. We must be willing to deal with our personal discomfort around inconvenient truths, most importantly, the truth of structural racism at the root of this country's existence.

From the beginning of my administration, we have been steadfast and immovable in advocating for a partnership between law enforcement, grassroots organizations, faith-based leaders and community members to rebuild trust in community policing.

As traumatic as this year has been, as difficult and unpredictable, we have an incredible opportunity to tackle the hard work that effectuates meaningful changes.

In addition to our work that resulted in the ban of the carotid restraint, I plan to introduce an Office on Race & Equity with the mission of healing race relations in our city. We need healing and help. It is my hope that every person will be able to live with dignity in a safe community and free from all forms of violence, racial profiling and economic injustice.

Getting Involved in the Fiscal Year '21 Budget Process

Community, thank you for your ongoing involvement in this year's budget process. The San Diego City Council will convene a special meeting to approve the FY '21 budget.

Meeting Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 at 11 a.m. <u>Review Monday's agenda</u>

Phone in Testimony

The phone system <u>does not have a lobby for members of the public to wait on the call until their item is</u> <u>called</u>. **You must monitor the meeting** (*watch <u>City TV</u>: <u>https://bit.ly/2XzX42f</u>*) and listen for <u>Item 602</u> to be called. When the Clerk introduces, either the item you would like to comment on or the comment period for Non-Agenda Public Comment, dial the number below to be placed in the queue. **You will hear a system prompt stating "your phone has been unmuted" when it is your turn to comment**.

DIAL 619-541-6310 | Enter the Access Code: 877861 then press '#'

San Diego City Council Meeting Tuesday, June 2, 2020

This 11-hour meeting included many <u>agenda</u> items that were of importance to our residents. Thank you to the many members of the community, who waited for hours and hours, to speak for only one minute. We heard you loud and clear.

We want to highlight three crucial votes during this meeting:

Your Voice at City Hall

- Item 333: Resolution Denouncing Anti-Asian Racism Arising Due to Fears of the COVID-19 Pandemic (passed unanimously).
- **Item S501: Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (passed unanimously): On Tuesday, the People's Councilmember joined Councilmember Ward, at <u>a press conference</u>, to announce this rental relief program aimed at helping alleviate the burden of the pandemic and assist with the community's need for help with rent payments. More work to be done, but relief is on the way.
- Item 331: Presentation of the San Diego Affordable Housing Preservation Study (passed unanimously): Last week, the People's Councilmember joined Council President Gómez at a press conference to announce the release of this study. The report, "<u>Preserving Affordable Housing in the City of San Diego</u>," was produced by the San Diego Housing Commission. It provides an analysis of existing affordable housing options throughout the city and identifies 10 strategies for preservation.

COVID-19 TESTING OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

TESTING: State public health officials are conducting tests at the Tubman-Chavez Center. Up to 132 appointments on their testing days. To schedule an appointment, please visit <u>https://lhi.care/covidtesting</u> or call (888) 634-1123.

Vulnerable groups can be symptomatic or asymptomatic. Please see the infographic. If you belong to a vulnerable group, contact your healthcare provider to be tested, call 2–1–1 or use the number above.

Public Health Order

For the latest on the stay-at-home order and the reopenings, please read the updated <u>Public Health</u> <u>Order</u>.





Supported by: Assemblymember Dr. Shirley N. Weber District 79 When: Saturday June 6, 2020

Places of Worship

Limit to 25% capacity or 100 people Consider:

- no singing or other practices that might increase exhaled droplets
- no practices that share items or require contact



www.coronavirus-sd.com Text: COSD COVID19 to 468-311

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Sincerely,

MEME

Councilmember, Fourth Council District

