“For a Better San Diego” Initiative Petition

By a 5–4 vote, City Council approved the “For a Better San Diego” petition that declared the Council’s intention to submit the measure to voters in March 2020, sadly superseding the voice of our voters.

I made it clear with my no vote that I remain a champion of the voice of our communities. Seventy-percent (70%) of the voters in our community have spoken loud and clear that ballot measures should be considered during November’s general elections when more people participate in the voting process.

As an elected official, I not only have the responsibility of addressing the homeless crisis and our infrastructure needs, but I also must honor my responsibility to my community. Placing this measure on the ballot in March is not representative of the will of the people. It is not representative of the will of our communities. I could not in good faith support this resolution.

Reaction to the U-T Story

Public safety is a top priority for my office and we work to make sure our communities are safe – every street and every neighborhood. When the U-T recently published a story finding a 450% increase in violent crime in our Bay Terraces Community, we immediately analyzed their data. The U-T data provided to my office in essence showed an increase in violent crimes from 2 to 11 over a five-year period.

We were extremely disappointed with the U-T’s decision to paint one of our safest communities with such a broad stroke as unsafe. Furthermore, we were disappointed that this narrative was published without the actual numbers provided by the San Diego Police Department to present the fullness of the data.

I highly encourage our community to write letters to the U-T editorial staff (email Publisher & Editor, jeff.light@sduniontribune.com | Phone: (619) 293-1201) regarding the presentation of their data about our beloved Bay Terraces Community. There are many other stories that can be published about our communities that don’t amplify some preconceived narrative.
April 17 | Councilmember Montgomery Chairs the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee that heard the Vehicle Habitation Ordinance Item

As the sole no vote (3-1) on the item, the Councilmember shared this comment:

“The way we do business here is extremely reactive. We leave folks out. We must vet things in a more thoughtful way. I agree that this ordinance is from a very privileged perspective. I looked at the Los Angeles Ordinance, and it explains homelessness in a more thoughtful way. There is an interactive map that shows the locations of safe lots, and a more comprehensive diversion program. I can’t support this today. I am outvoted but I think it should go back to staff.”

You can tune in and watch Council and Committee meetings on City TV24: [https://www.sandiego.gov/communications/citytv](https://www.sandiego.gov/communications/citytv)

April 16 | Consent Agenda Community Projects, Programs, and Services (CPPS) Funding

These worthy community organizations were approved for CPPS funding:

- Friends of the Valencia Park/Malcolm X Public Library for programming
- Blue Heart Foundation, Depositing Empowerment Through Outreach & Urban Redevelopment (DETOUR) for the FANCY in STEAM Initiative
- Paving Great Futures
- The Heartland Coalition: YouthBuild & Construction Careers for Education and Job Placement for Opportunity Youth and Adults.

The Councilmember highlighted these organizations.

The Councilmember had the opportunity to attend the Blue Heart Foundation's Signing Day and three of the four young men went to Lincoln High School. One of them was accepted to 69 colleges, and another one was accepted to 47 colleges.

April 8 | Item 203 “Save Skateworld”

Amazing community support! People from all across San Diego showed up to City Council to oppose the purchase & sale of the property at 6901–21 Linda Vista Road (a no vote). Over 40 speakers appeared at Council to oppose this item.

The People's Councilmember supported the community and voted "no" on the item, sharing this comment:

“I do appreciate the history of this effort. I usually prefer to give deference to my fellow councilmembers for items in their districts but in this case, I would rather be in the place where we have honored the community's voice."
Creek to Bay Clean Up, 4/27/19 hosted by I Love A Clean San Diego. 9 a.m. – Noon. Register at www.creektobay.org. To join us, meet at our Skyline Hills Library, 7900 Paradise Valley Rd.

Councilmember Montgomery is encouraging everyone to get involved with the City’s budget process. Community Budget Meeting, April 30th at 8 a.m. Voice & Viewpoint, 3619 College Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115. For the key budget dates in the flyer below, please click the link to the .pdf: https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/cd4newsrelease190417.pdf

Upcoming Environmental Services Department Community Cleanups: 5/1/19 – Alta Vista; 5/15/19 – Skyline; 5/21/19 – Encanto; 5/28/19 – Redwood Village; 6/25/19 – Encanto

Now Enrolling Ages 2 – Kindergarten, Open House: 4/27, 5/18 & 6/8, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Greater Life Church, 1012 Derby St., San Diego, CA 92114, (619) 487-0409 or preschool@greatelifeds.org

Also at the church: now enrolling Full STEAM Ahead Summer Camp Program, June 17 – August 23, Ages 5-17. (619) 263-8101 or summercamp@greatelifeds.org.

FREE! Elementary Institute of Science FIRE (Future Innovation in Robotics & Engineering) Informational Session, 5/8/19. 6:30 p.m. 608 51st Street, San Diego, CA 92114.

For a complete list of events, please visit our community calendar: https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd4/eventslisting

Get Involved with the City’s Budget Process
Learn how to access key information online

The Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) is charged with establishing key dates for the annual budget development process. The primary and most significant responsibility of the IBA is to annually review and analyze the Mayor’s Proposed Budget, and to publish a detailed report of the analysis of the budget.

We count on the IBA to provide objective and unbiased analysis and advice to the City Council and the public regarding all legislative, financial and policy impacts to the City of San Diego. Important budget information can be easily accessed online using the link provided. On January 16, 2019, my office submitted our Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Presentation memo to the IBA. Now, we are entering the budget review and hearing season.

I am encouraging the community, all of us, to get involved! For additional information, here is a link to the Mayor’s proposed budget. Please read the IBA’s analysis (to be released on April 26th), read the IBA’s guide to the budget process, plan to attend a budget hearing and our community budget meeting. Let’s advocate for the needs of our community. It really does take all of us working together.

FY 2020 Key Budget Dates

Monday, April 1st
Mayor presented FY 2020 Budget at City Council

Friday, April 5th
Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) released version of Mayor’s FY 2020 Proposed Budget

Monday, April 8th
City Council Rehearsal
Community Budget Meeting at Skyline Hills Library

Wednesday, April 10th
City Council Rehearsal
Budget Work Session
City Administration Building, 5545 N. Morena Blvd, San Diego, CA 92111

Friday, May 3rd to Friday, May 17th
City Council Rehearsal
Community Budget Meeting at Skyline Hills Library

Monday, May 6th – Wednesday, May 8th
Budget Review Committee
City Administration Building, 5545 N. Morena Blvd, San Diego, CA 92111

Monday, May 13th
Budget Review Committee
Meeting Date

Tuesday, May 21st
Mayor presents May REVENUE

Monday, May 27th
Ward Financial Impact on City Council Modifications

Monday, June 3rd
City Council reviews FY 2020 Budget

Meeting Date

FY 2020 Budget Hearing

PAY EQUITY AUDIT
CITY EMPLOYEE EARNINGS

PAY FOR WHITE MEN AVERAGING $98,026
PAY FOR ASIAN MEN AVERAGING $87,435
PAY FOR WHITE WOMEN AVERAGING $81,405
PAY FOR HISPANIC OR LATINO MEN AVERAGING $78,473
PAY FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEN AVERAGING $72,714
PAY FOR ASIAN WOMEN AVERAGING $71,900
PAY FOR HISPANIC OR LATINO WOMEN AVERAGING $65,428
PAY FOR ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN AVERAGING $59,816

SOURCE: OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR (OCA) PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF CITY EMPLOYEE PAY EQUITY. OCA GENERATED FROM SAP WORKFORCE DATA AND 2017 EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION REPORT.

PAY DISPARITY REVEALED | The earnings shown above depict the findings of a recent audit released by the Office of the City Auditor (OCA). The OCA found that there is a pay disparity for city jobs based on race and gender. Economic opportunity for all is one of our top priorities and woven into that fabric is advocacy for equity. On April 23, I was happy to learn that the Mayor is calling for a wage equity study.

Important Contacts

• COUNTY: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES | Fourth Council District area, please contact:
  o Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, District 4
  o Email: Nathan.Fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov
  o Phone: (619) 531-5544

• EDUCATION (SCHOOLS) | Fourth Council District area, please contact:
  o Dr. Sharon Whitehurst-Payne, Board President, District E
  o Email: swhitehurst-payne@sandi.net
  o Phone: (619) 725-5550

• STATE: LEGISLATION, DMV, HIGHWAY | Fourth Council District area, please contact:
  o Dr. Shirley Weber, Assemblymember, 79th District
  o Contact Dr. Weber
  o District Office: (619) 531-7913
  o Sacramento: (916) 319-2079
Top photo: April 15 | Honoring the legacy of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball during Jackie Robinson Day at Petco Park, along with Jackie Robinson YMCA scholars.

Left photo: April 19 | Participating in Project Reo's Cleanup with the Carpenters Union. Safe and healthy communities.

Cleaning up for Earth Day 4.22.19 | Before & After Photos

- Graffiti removal on Meadowbrook
- Illegal Dumping on Skyline
- Weed Abatement on Woodman