



The People's Councilmember
Monica Montgomery Steppe
Council District 4

Special Edition
June 2021 eNews Reboot



Dear Community,

Throughout the pandemic, my office has worked diligently to organize community cleanups to tackle illegal dumping and connect our residents with resources. We activated our emergency communications protocols to provide our community with food security options, employment opportunities, COVID-19 testing and vaccine locations, as well as keeping you updated on our policy advances at City Hall.

This month, **the state of California fully reopened and eliminated the tier system** along with updated guidelines on mask usage. In addition to now being able to enjoy the freedom of in-person community celebrations, we also fought for a **FY '22 budget** that returned investment to our communities of concern.

We were able to fortify our community by working with our grassroots organizations. Together, we were able to get through the worst of it. **We are emerging from one of the darkest periods with a renewed vigor for community-centered governance** and amplifying the voice of our community.

Inside this special edition reboot of our monthly eNews, we share the following updates:

- **Juneteenth Celebration at City Hall**
- **2021 Walls of Excellence Induction Ceremony**
- **FY '22 Budget wins for communities of concern**
- **Community calendar, Skyline-Paradise Community cleanup and more**

We remain committed to our valued residents. Please do not hesitate to email cd4news@sandiego.gov with your questions, concerns, and ideas for improving our neighborhoods.

In your service,

Monica Montgomery Steppe, Councilmember
Fourth Council District

Proudly Representing the Community



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Alta Vista • Broadway Heights • Chollas View • Emerald Hills
• Encanto • Greater Skyline Hills • Jamacha • Lincoln Park &
Knox • Lomita Village • North Bay Park Terraces • Oak Park •
O'Farrell • Paradise Hills • Redwood Village • Rolando Park •
South Bay Terraces • Valencia Park • Webster

June Highlights



June 12 | 21st Annual Walls of Excellence Induction Ceremony

The late Councilmember George Stevens built the Walls of Excellence monument, located at Wille James Jones and Imperial Avenue, to confer distinction on high school seniors from the Fourth Council District high schools. For over 20 years, the Fourth Council District Office has carried on this tradition. We are proud to continue this legacy. **Class of 2021 Walls of Excellence Distinguished Honorees:**

Lincoln High School: Isolina Delgado, Temple Daniel, and Giovany Mendoza Ramirez

Morse High School: Liezl Joy Malamion Luzano, Patrick Punzalan Rantins, and Erika Claudette Rivera (not present)

Gompers Preparatory Academy: Sarai Garcia Galeana, Esther Gardea Hernandez, and Daniela Suarez

San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts: Courvosiea Irby (not present), Dianne Natanauan, and Julieann Nodora



Photo: Michael Taylor

June 19 | Juneteenth Day in the city of San Diego

This year, a special City Hall celebration was held to proclaim June 19 to be Juneteenth Day in the city of San Diego, which included flying the Juneteenth flag at City Hall for the first time. The Emancipation Proclamation ended slavery in 1863, but it would take another two and a half years for the state of Texas to finally comply on June 19, 1865. For African Americans, Juneteenth is celebrated as an Independence Day. It is a day of liberation and freedom commemorating the official end of slavery in our nation. Although the fight for racial and social equity continues, we were proud to host a celebration and display the Juneteenth Flag at City Hall. **Thank you to the Cooper Family Foundation and Fit, Black, and Educated (FBE) – both organizations received ceremonial proclamations. Also, a special thank you to Rochelle Porter, the Juneteenth flagmaker.**

Your Voice at City Hall & Beyond

June 1 | Councilmember was sworn in for her role on the Reparations Task Force: The Councilmember said, *"It is a heavy honor to do this work. We must face our history head on if we are to move toward a more just world. The fact is African Americans and other enslaved populations, like Native Americans in California, built our country for free—and then were locked out of all the economic benefits of their labor for generations. We cannot erase that damage, but we can work to ensure it doesn't hold back future generations. We must measure the impact of this systemic racism on generational wealth and economic opportunity, so we can make educated decisions on how to correct it moving forward."*

June 14 | Approval of the Fiscal Year '22 Budget: The Councilmember's proposed amendment to cut \$6 million from the police overtime budget was not a cut in public safety. It was an effort to make funding available for an investment in crime prevention. This investment was the path forward to begin the process of holistically and proactively addressing public safety in our communities of concern. Safe and healthy communities are created. It is an intentional effort. Therefore, communities that have been historically ignored are less safe. This isn't a coincidence. It is the result of decades of intentional disinvestment into our communities of concern. [Despite the lack of discussion on the \\$6 million amendment to reprogram San Diego Police Department's overtime funding](#), the approved FY'22 budget did include funding for the following with a lens on equity: Emerald Hills Park Funding for Design; Oak Park Library funding for Design; Chollas Oak Park Trail Construction; Cielo/Woodman Pump Station, 54th-Market to Santa Margarita Sidewalk; Reo Drive New Street Lights; Division Street and Valencia Parkway Traffic Signal; 47th Street and Solola Avenue Traffic Signal; Continued funding for Office of Race & Equity; Commission on Police Practices funding; Increase to Arts and Culture funding; Additions to Graffiti Abatement, Weed Abatement, Tree Trimming, and Streetlights; Creation of Office of Child and Youth Success; and Restoration of Library hours.

June 24 | Special Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods (PSLN) Committee Meeting: A special PSLN committee meeting was convened to give the community an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft implementation ordinance for the new independent Commission on Police Practices. **The work of the implementation ordinance must be conducted thoroughly and carefully. This will require time. The community will continue to have ample opportunity to provide input and feedback on the various drafts as the process continues to evolve.** We look forward to continuing the conversation in the upcoming weeks and months and continuing to work through the details of the draft ordinance to ensure that the spirit and intentions of Measure B are properly reflected.



Clean, Safe & Healthy Communities Initiatives | Dumpster Days

As crucial components of our ongoing commitment to have clean, safe and healthy communities, our **D4 Green Team** partnered with local waste management companies to make five (5) bins available for the Skyline-Paradise Community Cleanup on Saturday, June 26, 2021.

"Dumpster Days" is a responsible way to address illegal dumping in our neighborhoods. Through our combined efforts, we have **removed nearly 550 tons of trash** from the community since we came into office with organized cleanups throughout the entire Fourth Council District. We are delivering on our promise for clean, safe and healthy communities. A clean community is safer and healthier.

To join the D4 Green Team movement, please complete the volunteer application:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd4/green-team-volunteer-application>