April marks Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month in California. In honor of this month, my office presented the Black Arts and Culture District Resolution to the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations (ED&IR) Committee for the first time.

The San Diego Black Arts and Culture District would allow the Imperial Corridor, located in Council District 4, to brand itself as a Black cultural center to honor the hard work and contributions of members of the Black community. This designation would also revitalize a historically disinvested community while advocating for social and economic opportunities, benefiting not just District 4 but also the entire City of San Diego.

On April 13th, the resolution unanimously passed the ED&IR Committee and it will now move forward to full Council.

Thank you to the community for your support and advocacy!
NEW INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST (IBA)

On April 4th, City Council voted to select Charles Modica as the new Independent Budget Analyst for the City of San Diego. This decision by the Council follows a robust hiring process, including input from Councilmembers and the public. We congratulate Mr. Modica and look forward to continuing the work with the IBA.

CREATION OF PRIVACY ADVISORY BOARD

After several years of advocacy from my office, the TRUST SD Coalition, and the community for the improvement of transparency of the City’s surveillance technology, Council approved the creation of a Privacy Advisory Board earlier this month. As the City purchases, uses and maintains surveillance technology data, it is imperative that we first protect the civil liberties of our community members. The Privacy Advisory Board is a small yet necessary step in bridging the intersection of public safety, surveillance, and transparency.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET

On April 18th, the Mayor released a proposed budget for the City's Fiscal Year 2023. Over the next couple weeks, my office will thoroughly review this budget to prepare for City Council Budget Review Committees from May 4th through May 10th, and we invite you to provide your input in this process. View the full budget proposal at https://www.sandiego.gov/finance/proposed.

MORATORIUM ON NO-FAULT EVICTIONS

On April 5th, City Council voted to extend the moratorium on no-fault evictions until September 30th. No-fault evictions happen when tenants who are paying rent and obeying the lease are served an eviction notice because the landlord wants to leave the rental market, move into the property or substantially remodel. After many hours of public input, Council passed this extension as an attempt to assist tenants who must find housing during the pandemic recovery.

STOP ADOLESCENT ADDICTION TO FLAVORED E-CIGARETTES (SAAFE) ACT

Approximately 85% of African Americans who smoke use menthol cigarettes, and African-American men have the highest death rates from lung cancer when compared to other demographic groups. This alarming fact led to my vote to pass the SAAFE Act ordinance this month. Beginning January 2023, the City of San Diego will no longer permit the sale of flavored tobacco products, including the menthol (mint) flavor. This ordinance does not include shisha (hookah) or cigars. You can read the full ordinance here.
INSIDE CITY HALL

PILLARS OF GOVERNANCE

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Since day one, my staff and I have continuously advocated for not just equality but true equity in the City's annual budget process. My office has invested in our communities by advocating for change through our important measures, including the Office of Race and Equity, which we secured funding for in 2020. Through this office, the City has committed to helping address the systemic issues that affect the residents who call San Diego home.

Now, there is an imminent economic recovery in our midst: the use of ARPA funds is mitigating our shortfall from previous years, and sales tax revenue is increasing much quicker than we initially anticipated. The City cannot divert from investing every resource available to achieve the equity we've committed to addressing.

As your Councilmember, my highest priority is to designate resources that align with my Pillars of Governance: Economic Opportunity for All, Reimagining Public Safety, and Clean, Safe, and Healthy Communities. It is time for us to invest in projects that will improve our residents' quality of life, including paved and well-lit sidewalks, updated parks, efficient libraries, and adequate traffic signals. Read more about my budget priorities in my office's detailed budget memo.

Please join City Council on May 16th for a special Council meeting for Public input on the FY23 Budget.

FY23 BUDGET FORUM

How do you think we should invest in our communities? My office is working in partnership with District 9 and the IBA to host a Budget Forum on Saturday, May 14th from 11am – 12:30pm at at the Mountain View Community Center (681 S Boundary St) to discuss the City of San Diego budget. RSVP to share with us your budget priorities for the City of San Diego.

RSVP

Register: sdd9.info/rserv
My office has been at the forefront of advocating for Cannabis equity for those impacted by the War on Drugs. Starting in May, the City of San Diego will be hosting listening sessions for the community to discuss how we can address disparities in the cannabis industry.

Join me on May 26th for an in-person discussion with your insights and thoughts on how we can create a more equitable program for all San Diegans.

CANNABIS EQUITY LISTENING SESSIONS

As a member of the MTS Board, I believe we must allocate resources equitably to ensure that our city's transportation is accessible for all.

Starting May 1st, 2022, anyone aged 18 and under can ride transit for FREE in San Diego County through the SANDAG Youth Opportunity Pass program. This program will run through June 2023.

FREE YOUTH MTS TRANSPORTATION

SANDAG has teamed up with MTS, NCTD, and the County of San Diego to connect youth to school, jobs, entertainment, and more!

Starting May 1, anyone aged 18 and under can ride transit for free in San Diego County through the SANDAG Youth Opportunity Pass pilot program.

Get your Youth PRONTO app account or card to get unlimited rides on the bus, Trolley, COASTER, and SPRINTER through June 2023.

Youth Can Ride Free: As easy as 1, 2, 3

1. Get PRONTO
   - Already have a Youth PRONTO card or app on your phone? All rides will automatically be free starting May 1! If you’re new to PRONTO you can:
     - Download the PRONTO app and register for an account. Then visit sdmts.com/youth-opportunity-pass to convert your account from Adult to Youth.
     - Or pick up a free Youth PRONTO card from the MTS Transit Store, NCTD Customer Service Centers, select community organizations, participating schools, or at special transit center events during April and May.

2. Get Ready
   - Use Trip Planner and Next Departure in the PRONTO app for real-time information. Or visit sdmts.com and gonctd.com websites to build your route and find the closest transit station.

3. Get Riding
   - It’s time to go! Remember you must tap your card or scan your app every time you ride. Youth must be able to show proof of eligibility while riding such as a school picture ID, government-issued photo ID with birthdate, or a birth certificate.

You’re all set! We can’t wait to see what the Youth Opportunity Pass connects you to next.

SIGN UP TODAY

CITY OF SAN DIEGO CANNABIS EQUITY LISTENING SESSIONS

The City of San Diego's Cannabis Business Division is partnering with the Department of Race and Equity to host eight in-person listening sessions citywide to hear from residents and communities disproportionately affected by the War on Drugs on how to reduce barriers to entry into the regulated cannabis market equitably.

Focusing on residents, communities, organizations and other impacted individuals in communities of concern, community surveys and listening session information will be used to help develop recommendations and policies for a Cannabis Equity Applicant Program to address disparities in the Cannabis Industry.

Please join Council President pro tem Monica Montgomery Steppe and City staff to discuss equity in cannabis and provide us your insights and thoughts.

Listening Session Details:

- Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022
  - Time: 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
  - Location: Malcolm X Library
  - 5148 Market Street, San Diego CA 92114

- Date: Saturday, June 4, 2022
  - Time: 10 a.m. - Noon
  - Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center
  - 6401 Skyline Dr., San Diego, CA 92114

Light Refreshments will be provided!
SONS & DAUGHTERS OF GUAM CLUB
FREE HEALTH RESOURCE EVENT

May 14, 2022
9am-3pm
334 Willie James Jones Ave.
San Diego, CA 92102
Learn about and enjoy a selection of local health resources available in our community!

COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines!
COVID-19 Testing!
Gift cards for individuals vaccinated or tested at this event with completion of survey!

Questions about venue: June Hawkins (619) 658-2782

FOR THE LATEST UPDATES,
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
@CD4Monica
This month, I was happy to attend the Focused and Naturally Confident Youth (FANCY) Teen Expo that returned to the District this year. For over a decade, D.E.T.O.U.R. has been hosting this event in District 4 to encourage, empower and inspire young women. Congratulations and best wishes to all of the scholarship winners that were announced at this event!

San Diego is the 2nd largest city in California where Arab Americans call home. This month, I was honored to present a proclamation to recognize Arab American Heritage Month and celebrate all the valuable culture and contributions that Arab Americans have shared in Council District Four and the City of San Diego.

This month, I was honored to join my colleagues and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in recognizing Ramadan Month in the city of San Diego. By recognizing this time of peace, we are honoring the diversity of our constituents and celebrating their unique culture and traditions. Wishing all those who celebrate a joyful and blessed Ramadan season!
OFFICE HOURS

FRIDAYS 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

30 MIN VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT AT SMSANCHEZ@SANDIEGO.GOV

CONFIRM APPOINTMENT

PREPARE

DIRECTORY 4

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
Chair, Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods
Member, Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Member, Committee on Budget and Government Efficiency
Member, Committee on Active Transportation & Infrastructure

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS APPOINTMENTS
Co-Chair, City-County Reinvestment Task Force
Board Representative, San Diego MTS - Board of Directors
Alternate Representative, San Diego MTS - Executive Committee
Chair, San Diego MTS - Public Security Committee
First Representative and Alternate Chair, San Diego Consortium Policy Board

MEET THE STAFF

Henry Foster | Chief of Staff | HLFoster@sandiego.gov
Max Ellorin | Deputy Chief of Staff | MEllorin@sandiego.gov
Paradise Hills
Stephanie Sanchez | Office Manager & Scheduler | SMSanchez@sandiego.gov
Ariel Gibbs | Communications Manager | ALGibbs@sandiego.gov
Bruce Williams | District Ombudsman & Policy Advisor | BEwilliams@sandiego.gov
Broadway Heights, Greater Skyline Hills, Jamacha, Lomita Village, Oak Park, Rolando Park, Redwood Village
Tiffany Harrison | PS&LN Committee Consultant | THarrison@sandiego.gov
Emerald Hills
Eric Henson | Policy Advisor | HensonE@sandiego.gov
Bay Terraces
Karen Montufar-Federico | Council Representative | KMontufarFed@sandiego.gov
Alta Vista, Encanto, Challas View, Lincoln Park, Valencia Park/O'Farrell, Mountain View

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