

The City of
SAN DIEGO
The People's Councilmember
Monica Montgomery Steppe

For Immediate Release | September 9, 2020
Contact: Perri Storey, (619) 236-7010

Reaction to Controversial Streetlight Sensor Contract Pulled from Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee Agenda

SAN DIEGO, CA - Today, the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee was set to discuss the supplemental contract and amendment to the Master Purchase Agreement with Ubicquia for services related to the controversial streetlight sensor program. However, the item was pulled from the discussion agenda.

"It was the right decision for City staff to request that this item be pulled from the discussion agenda," said Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe, chair of the committee. **"There has been consistent push back from community activists and privacy advocates regarding the San Diego Police Department's (SDPD) usage of smart streetlights for crime-solving purposes, without any true accountability or oversight mechanisms in place to govern this usage."**

Councilmember Montgomery Steppe is leading the charge to establish a surveillance ordinance and privacy advisory commission to bring necessary oversight to the City's various surveillance technologies.

"The issue is not whether surveillance technology can be used as a public safety tool. The issue is transparency within SDPD," said Montgomery Steppe. **"Every decision that we make, in this moment, will either build trust with the community or tear it down. That is why it is imperative that we have an oversight framework in place to set parameters and advise City Council on how, when, and where surveillance technology, such as the streetlight sensors, may be used. No decision should be made until that framework is in place."**

Councilmember [Monica Montgomery Steppe](#) is an attorney and represents the [Fourth Council District](#) on the San Diego City Council, which includes the following communities: 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 and Webster. She is the Chair of the [Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods](#), and is Vice Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations.

###