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Council Approves Ordinance to Establish New Office of Race & Equity

SAN DIEGO, CA: Today, San Diego City Council unanimously approved the ordinance, which amends the San Diego Municipal Code, to establish the new Office of Race and Equity (ORE). Councilmember Montgomery Steppe proposed the new office during the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Approval Hearing to address the City's documented disparities, in the access to resources and the deployment of services, in our underserved communities.

"Today, I am thrilled that my council colleagues voted to genuinely and honestly address the systemic racism that is prevalent in our region," said Councilmember Montgomery Steppe, chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods. *"As we continue to identify policies that are detrimental to people of color, we must ensure the distribution of resources is equitable, fair and fosters a safe and balanced quality of life for all communities."*

With an ambitious mission, this new office will provide education and technical support to City staff, local law enforcement, and elected officials with the goal of eliminating systemic racism and other barriers to the fair and just distribution of resources. In addition, ORE will work to strengthen community partnerships with economic, racial, and social justice organizations.

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[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.