



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER RAUL A. CAMPILLO  
SEVENTH DISTRICT**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 4, 2022

**TO:** Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe, Chair, Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods

**FROM:** Councilmember Raul A. Campillo, Member, Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods *RAC*

**SUBJECT:** Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods 2022 Priorities

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Thank you for seeking my input on the 2022 priorities for the Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods (PS&LN). I'm honored to continue serving on this committee, and I look forward to addressing the public safety and livable neighborhood needs of San Diego while also ensuring every neighborhood in District 7 receives equitable resources. In response to your memorandum requesting priorities for the PS&LN committee, I am including my priorities for committee discussion below.

***Public Safety***

**POLICE**

Implement the Independent Commission on Police Practices ("CPP") As Soon As Possible

After the 2020 election saw nearly 75% of residents approve of the CPP, concrete action has not been taken by PS&LN in the last six months towards its ultimate establishment. PS&LN must ensure the CPP is implemented as soon as possible, and has the ability to conduct thorough investigations, subpoena witnesses and documents, and make their ultimate recommendations. As the CPP will have a broader scope than its predecessor, the Citizen's Review Board, additional resources will be required to ensure the CPP meets the expectations of the voters and the goals of establishing transparency and accountability.

Unreasonable Traffic Stops

PS&LN should explore the feasibility of removing minor traffic infractions from the City's Traffic Code. Minor infractions that should be explored for removal include stopping drivers for having items hanging from their rearview window, for having tinted windows, for failing to have an

illuminated back license, or for having unmuffled engines. Removing SDPD's option to proactively police these types of infractions will result in fewer unnecessary contacts with San Diego residents.

#### Reduction of Social Service Contacts Conducted by San Diego Police Officers

The core message the City hears from community groups pushing for reform is that individuals want fewer unnecessary contacts from police officers, particularly in ways that reflect outdated thinking about criminal justice. Homelessness, drug addiction, mental health episodes, and interactions with youth require proper training and precise monitoring so that the appropriate response and solution are applied every time. A specific example of where the City sees success in this arena is the use of officers being staffed with clinicians to the PERT program. SDPD must provide updates to PS&LN the feasibility of this programs expansion to ultimately reduce the number of social service contacts conducted by law enforcement.

#### SDPD Communications and Dispatch Wait Times

PS&LN should receive an update from the San Diego Police Department on the triage protocol for how specific types of San Diego Police Staff are assigned to various community calls. A frequent inquiry from City of San Diego residents focuses on the number of officers needed to respond to issues such as certain vehicle stops and some interactions with individuals living in encampments. Receiving an update on these protocols will allow PS&LN to develop solutions for reform to ensure the appropriate number and type of SDPD Officers are sent to each call.

#### SDPD Diversity in Recruitment

Currently, nearly 60% of all sworn officers are white, and approximately 16% of all sworn officers are women. To ensure the makeup of SDPD reflects the diversity in the City, PS&LN should receive an update after each recruitment cycle on the demographic makeup of SDPD. Data must also be provided on steps being taken to diversify the force and retain officers.

### **FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

#### San Diego Fire Department ("SDFD") Wellness and Staffing Optimization

PS&LN should receive an update on the status, outcomes, and needs of the San Diego Fire Department's wellness program. SDFD firefighters typically spend 48-72 hours on call and see increased rates of PTSD, depression, cancer, and other physical and mental illness compared to the general public. PS&LN should also ensure SDFD receives proper funding and resources to ensure that there are enough floating firetrucks to be readily available in all areas of the City to optimize equitable emergency response times for all San Diegans. In addition, PS&LN should request for an update regarding the City Gate Study and optimization of fire houses for delivery of service.

#### SDFD Diversity in Recruitment

PS&LN should receive an update after each recruitment cycle on the demographic makeup of SDFD. In addition, data must be provided on tangible steps being taken to diversify recruitment models and maximize retention. PS&LN should also receive an update on the Girls Empowerment Camp and associated metrics of recruitment.

### Fire Safety Education

PS&LN should receive an update from SDFD on current fire safety education measures and work to enhance education and outreach programs on fire safety and carbon monoxide detection to residents across the City. PS&LN should also work to enhance the current fire safety efforts in communities adjacent to open space districts by ensuring they receive proper education on fire abatement. Being educated on and taking the steps to prepare one's home for a potential fire increases the safety of everyone.

### Brush Management and Abatement

Due to staffing levels and the vast acreage of open space in the City, SDFD only has ability to inspect each of these locations one (1) time every four (4) years. PS&LN should review SDFD's process regarding annual inspections and adjust the plan as needed to ensure frequent maintenance and inspection. This will promote active maintenance of open spaces and locations prone to brush fires rather than taking reactive measures in response to a spark or fire.

### Update on New Emergency Medical Service System.

In 2021 the City of San Diego's transitioned its Emergency Medical Service system from American Medical Response Inc. to Falck A/C. To ensure Falck is meeting mandated response times, providing equitable service, and all aspects of the system are functional, PS&LN should receive a quarterly update on system performance from both Falck and SDFD.

### First Responder Homebuyer Down-Payment Assistance Program Expansion

To improve retention and diversity in recruitment for various first responder departments, I request that in FY 2023 the program that currently serves officers in the SDPD to purchase a home and establish roots in their community be expanded to include all City of San Diego First Responders. PS&LN should be updated annually regarding the success metrics of this program and the feasibility of expanding the program to all First Responders in the City of San Diego.

## **CITY ATTORNEY**

### Restorative Justice

PS&LN should continue to advocate for an increased emphasis and usage of restorative justice measures via cross-organization collaboration. PS&LN should continue to receive frequent updates from the City Attorney's Office (CAO) regarding their Community Justice Initiatives on the feasibility of permanently eliminating the guilty plea requirement and the \$150 administrative fee for all youth, and transitional age youth between 18-25. CAO should also provide tangible steps to refine the program via possible partnerships with organizations that emphasize the dialogue and collaboration of citizens to create safer communities and just outcomes for the city at large.

### Supporting the City Attorney in Funding of the Gun Violence Restraining Order Program

PS&LN should receive updates from the City Attorney's Office on the efficacy and success of the program both locally and across the state. In 2019, the State of California provided \$250,000 to operate the program, but funds have now depleted. To avoid cuts to the operations of the City Attorney's Office, PS&LN should ensure the City Attorney's Gun Violence Restraining Order program is fully funded and has the resources needed to operate the program.

## *Livable Neighborhoods*

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

#### Old Mission Dam

The Old Mission Dam at Mission Trails Regional Park is a historic state landmark that is at risk of being destroyed due to excess silt deposits. The Dam must be dredged every four years due to these excess silt deposits. An amount of \$750,000 must be expended every four years, but there is no consistent funding source for this. As such, PS&LN should explore the ability of the Parks and Recreation Department to operate a dedicated fund to ensure the dam is dredged on a consistent basis.

#### Park and Recreation Staffing and Equity

The City of San Diego's Parks and Recreation Department continues to face major department vacancies. The Department has reported that nearly 44% of recreation center staff, 14% of full-time staff, and over 30 ground maintenance staff positions remain vacant. Pool hours, recreation center programs, and general maintenance have all seen cuts. PS&LN should ensure funding is available to hire and retain staff, while expanding access to facilities and programs for increased Park equity across the City.

### **LIBRARY**

#### Proper Funding of Library System

As in previous fiscal years, the City of San Diego's Library Department has consistently been underfunded resulting in basic needs such as window washing and landscaping to be neglected. PS&LN should receive quarterly updates from Library Department staff on the status of reopening Libraries normal levels of hours, programming, and other services.

### **EQUITABLE DELIVERY OF CITY SERVICES**

#### Privacy Advisory Group and Surveillance Ordinance

In the last year the implementation of the Surveillance Ordinance, and subsequently the establishment of the Privacy Advisory Group, has stalled. PS&LN must ensure the approved Privacy Advisory Group is quickly instituted and populated with members, to be ready to serve and advise the City once the ordinance is implemented. PS&LN should ensure the Ordinance is implemented this calendar year. Once established, the Privacy Advisory Group should provide quarterly updates to PS&LN on its findings, results, and efficacy of the technology governed by the surveillance ordinance.

#### Safe Syringe Exchange Program

Safe syringe exchange programs have been proven to be safe and effective programs to promote public health outcomes among those who inject drugs. Needles used for opiates, methamphetamine, or other drug consumption can be found scattered across entrances of various City trails and parks, posing a clear risk to public health. In addition, 29% of arrested drug users in San Diego have used needles to inject drugs, and 36% of those individuals have also admitted to sharing needles. The City must receive an update regarding the efficacy of the program within city limits enhance the current safe syringe program operated by Family Health Centers (FHC). Following the County of San Diego's creation of a needle exchange program in 2021, PS&LN

should investigate the protocol on how these services will expand to local municipalities, and how the City of San Diego can also enhance these programs in tandem with FHC.

## **HOMELESSNESS**

### Homelessness and Housing Programming

The City's homelessness crisis is continuing to grow, and it is directly tied to the City's housing crisis. PS&LN should continue, along with the Committee on Land Use & Housing, to implement the City of San Diego Community Action Plan on Homelessness. PS&LN should also receive updates from relevant organizations and City departments to create intentional policy decisions to fund long-term housing solutions as well as a person-centered homeless outreach models such as rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. Additionally, PS&LN should ask for an update from the Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department regarding access to public restrooms in Downtown, along the San Diego River in Mission Valley, public transit facilities, and throughout the City. The recent shigella outbreak this past year highlights the importance of public sanitation facilities that should meet the needs of all residents.

### Safe Parking Lots

PS&LN should explore the repeal of the current Vehicle Habitation Ordinance on humanitarian grounds and must consider expanding the successful Safe Park Program in its place. The Safe Park Program continues to serve thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness across San Diego County daily. PS&LN should receive updates from the City's Real Estate Assets Department on potential locations of where the City can expand this program into, and that the work plan includes the development and implementation of two (2) additional safe parking lots. *Approximate Cost: \$1,000,000 for (2) Safe Parking Lots*