



The Office of Councilmember Raul A. Campillo

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San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo Announces Intent to Develop Program Ensuring City Contracts Include Minority & Woman Owned Businesses

SAN DIEGO — Raul Campillo, City of San Diego District 7 Councilmember and Chair of the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, announced today his intention to work closely with the City's Purchasing and Contracting Department and the City Attorney's Office to create a race and gender-conscious program to ensure the most severely underrepresented groups receive their fair share of contracts awarded by the City.

In 2019, the City Council voted to commission a disparity study to determine whether minority, woman, and disabled veteran-owned businesses face any barriers as part of the City of San Diego's contracting processes. The study reported that minority and woman-owned businesses were only awarded 19 percent of the contract dollars issued by the City over the last five years, as opposed to the 31 percent that the study suggested they should have received. Councilmember Campillo believes there is a need to pursue aggressive equitable action to remedy these disparities.

At today's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Councilmember Campillo moved to adopt key recommendations issued by City staff in response to the disparity study. Although these efforts are sure to help combat the issue, Campillo wants to ensure that minority and woman-owned businesses have equal access to opportunities to contract with the City.

"The results of the disparity study are clear; minority and woman-owned businesses have been historically deprived of opportunities to compete for City contract dollars" said Councilmember Campillo. "The City of San Diego must take aggressive action to address these disparities through the creation of race and gender-conscious contracting programs. For over 30 years we have allowed these inequities to exist in our city's contracting policies, and it's time to right this wrong".

Passed in 1996, Proposition 209 states that the state cannot discriminate against or grant preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, and public contracting. Councilmember Campillo plans to push against the statutes of Proposition 209, through the creation of race and gender-conscious programs.

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