



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT

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COUNCILMEMBER WARD STATEMENT ON DECLARATION OF SAN DIEGO SHELTER CRISIS AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

SAN DIEGO, CA – (Monday, October 2, 2017) – San Diego Councilmember Chris Ward (District Three) made the following statement following the City Council's unanimous 8-0 approval of a resolution declaring a Shelter Crisis in the City of San Diego including as related to the Hepatitis A outbreak:

"I have spent most of this year calling for urgent action to provide sufficient shelter and services for the growing number of homeless people in San Diego, and today's declaration of a Shelter Crisis and Public Health Emergency will speed up the process for implementing a sufficient response. We have all heard from San Diegans throughout the city that we have a responsibility to public health, to public safety, and most importantly to human decency to do more and do it immediately, and today's Council vote demonstrates clear commitment to do more.

"We know our city's emergency sanitation and vaccination response must also move beyond the ticketing and arrests that are pushing homeless individuals further into our neighborhoods, and by expanding and streamlining our rapid response options we can make sure we address the entire challenge before us. We cannot leave so many homeless San Diegans to fend for themselves on our streets and in our neighborhoods, and this Shelter Crisis declaration reduces red tape and unlocks more opportunities for the Mayor and City to quickly provide more shelter opportunities and safe, sanitary options to expand our response to the Hepatitis A outbreak and our ongoing homelessness emergency."

For more information or to interview Councilmember Ward, contact Lucas O'Connor at (619) 236-6633 or (619) 368-3153.

Councilmember Ward represents San Diego's Third Council District including the communities of Downtown, Little Italy, Bankers Hill, Mission Hills, Middletown, Hillcrest, University Heights, North Park, Normal Heights, Old Town, South Park, and Golden Hill.

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