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COUNCILMEMBER CATE PROPOSES BLUE LIGHT EMERGENCY PHONES PILOT
District 6 Parks to Potentially Serve as Model for City-wide Community Policing Program

San Diego, CA: The City of San Diego oversees and manages more than 400 parks, 40 of which are in District Six alone. The City's park system supports and provides opportunities for individual growth, cultural exchange and enrichment, youth development, special needs programming, and senior services. I believe we must continue to encourage our families and friends to visit our City Parks and feel safe and secure while doing so.

Much like Neighborhood Watch programs and Designated Online Transaction Spaces (D.O.T.S.), Blue Light Emergency Phones are an additional community policing tool for reducing and deterring crime. The color of Blue Light phones is associated with the police. Calls from any of these phones connect directly to a 911 dispatcher, such that emergency personnel can determine precisely where the call is being made from, unlike calls received from a mobile phone. More and more cities are installing these devices because they have proven to be a valuable part of a comprehensive public safety strategy.

Blue Light Emergency Phones were first installed in 1991 on college campuses in response to federal legislation. Nearly three decades later, Blue Light Emergency Phones can be found throughout District 6 at community colleges, San Diego MTS Transit Stations, and hospitals. Among the many cities who have implemented Blue Light Emergency Phones are: Boston (MA), Santa Ana (CA), Winona (MN), Charleston (IL), Grand Rapids (MI), Auburn (WA), and Rexburg (ID), to note a few. Blue Light Emergency Phones have even been installed recently at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, CA.

"Blue Light Emergency Phones are reliable and efficient. These phones will allow San Diegans the ability to report emergencies in a swift fashion, and serve dually as a crime deterrent," stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

View the memorandum here: <http://bit.ly/2IZrymg>

Attachment: <http://bit.ly/2GotC6k>