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- 1) Team Ward up early with hundreds of volunteers to engage and assist San Diego's unsheltered population for the Annual Point in Time Count.
- 2) Councilmember Ward surprised members of the El Cajon BIA with \$5,000 from CPPS funds for placemaking projects.
- 3) Councilmember Ward and staff continuing bi-monthly community walks, bringing city business to your door.
- 4) Councilmember Ward joined elected leaders and community members to celebrate the opening of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Bessie and Harley Knox Branch Library.

Councilmember Ward serves on the following:

Chair, Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations

Chair, Regional Task Force on the Homeless

Vice-Chair, Active Transportation & Infrastructure

Vice-Chair, Land Use & Housing

Member, Rules Committee

Member, SANDAG Regional Planning Committee

Alternate Member, California Coastal Commission

Member, MTS Board of Directors

Dear Neighbor:

Every year in the United States, more than 400,000 people are killed on our streets and thousands more are seriously injured. In 2018, the number of pedestrian deaths in San Diego doubled from 17 in 2017 to 34. Serious injuries for pedestrians and bicyclists rose to 93 and 23 respectively during that same time. All San Diegans have the right to move about their communities safely, unburdened by the fear of becoming a statistic. This fear is very real for many, stifling freedom of mobility, compromising our quality of life, and delaying progress toward achieving our Climate Action Plan goals.



Among my FY 2020 budget priorities are recommendations that will embolden local traffic planners and engineers, policymakers, and public health professionals to approach traffic safety in a fundamentally different way. This includes the creation of a new Mobility Department to envision, build, operate, and maintain a transportation system that provides safe, equitable, efficient, and sustainable options for all residents. San Diego's transportation planning and implementation services are currently scattered across the Planning, Transportation and Storm Water, and Public Works Departments.

Combining these responsibilities into a stand-alone department will ensure a comprehensive approach to transportation and the completion of long-delayed projects including the Transportation Master Plan, the Downtown Mobility Plan, the El Cajon Mobility Project, and investments in pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure.

I am also calling for additional collaboration between the San Diego Association of Governments' planning of property in our neighborhoods and the City staff that is responsible with final review. I will continue to advocate for additional street, sidewalk, and crosswalk improvements.

February 2019

DISTRICT 3

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

In 2018, we gained momentum in pursuit of lasting solutions to San Diego's homelessness and housing crises. We must now maintain that commitment by expanding our response and building on the successes of the past year. As current programs and policies continue to be evaluated for greater impact, more must be done to deliver results to our communities.

The policies, services, and funding meant for the homeless, housing, real estate management, and community development are currently administered through a variety of City departments and outside agencies. The City should consolidate management of homelessness services, real estate asset management, and housing and community development services into one department, ensuring that efficient and accountable governance is created.

Within this Department of Housing and Community Development tenant rights should be protected, City-land assets leveraged to create attainable housing opportunities, and a new homeless outreach and encampment protocol should be immediately adopted and implemented.

I formally requested that Mayor Faulconer evaluate the old Mission Hills Library site to determine its potential for mixed-use residential housing. If we are serious about creating tangible housing opportunities for all San Diegans it is imperative that we leverage all available assets that are suitable for housing and affordable developments. Furthermore, with my recent vote to move along the 6th and Olive housing project, I've stood firm in my support of developments that provide at least 10% on site affordable units and are thoughtfully proposed in areas where density makes sense: environments ripe for urban infill and along transit corridors.

For more on my policy work on homelessness, visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3/>



ENVIRONMENT

Our climate goals are clear: a healthy, sustainable San Diego— where our beautiful communities and biodiverse habitats can thrive. To achieve this, we need to be securing every source of funding available and invest those funds into projects that reduce carbon emissions, benefit our economy, and ensure our climate policies positively impact all San Diegans.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars in untapped grant funds are available from numerous sources at the state level, with a focus on underinvested communities. Creating a new staff position in the Office of Sustainability, specifically to lead grant writing efforts will provide the City with the resources and capacity to take advantage of these funds.

Additionally, one of the signature promises of our landmark Climate Action Plan was to prioritize implementation in historically underinvested communities who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. I've requested that the City hire a grant writer and Equity Program Manager within the Office of Sustainability to make socially equitable implementation of the Climate Action Plan a reality. Following the successful passage of the Styrofoam ban, my office will be holding a follow-up roundtable with the environmental community to discuss the next steps they recommend the City take to protect our environment.



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

One of my most important responsibilities as the elected representative for District Three is to advocate for our communities needs and priorities during the City's annual budget process. Last month, I released a memo defining my budget priorities that I feel balances fiscal responsibility with our dire need to invest in San Diego's workforce and city infrastructure needs.

Every budget year requires difficult decisions, but we must avoid endangering San Diego's future with impulsive, short-term budget cuts. The City has thousands of vacant budgeted positions, creating long-term liabilities due to the high cost of reduced service levels and expensive outsourcing of core city responsibilities.

The City of San Diego is falling short in its responsibility to attract qualified, dedicated individuals to employ. Cities in our region offer salaries as much as 30 percent higher than what is offered in San Diego and in 2016, the number of employees that have left the City outpaced the number of employees who retired. The result is 25% of City jobs remain vacant, creating the need to hire costly outside consultants, resulting in higher costs and a drop of the employment culture.

The time has come to significantly invest in City staff by offering competitive pay and improving our ability to hire and retain talented San Diegans. This is a necessary investment to ensure San Diego grows responsibly, equitably, and with the capacity to serves the needs of all neighborhoods and residents.



Community Events

I look forward to seeing you soon out in the community at one of the following District Three events.

- University Heights Community Association Meeting, February 7, 7:00pm - 8:00pm, Alice Birney Elementary, 4345 Campus Ave, San Diego, CA
- Free Composting Class, February 9, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Golden Hill Recreation Center, 2600 Golf Center Course Drive
- Hillcrest Farmers Market, February 17, 9:00am- 2:00pm , Hillcrest DMV Parking Lot, 3960 Normal Street.

For more information on any of these events, contact my office at ChristopherWard@SanDiego.gov or (619) 236-6633.

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