Dear Neighbors:

As Council reconvenes after summer recess, one of the first issues will be updates to the municipal code addressing the adult use of marijuana.

In January the City first introduced amendments to the Land Development Code to include regulations that will allow retail marijuana establishments operating with a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) where marijuana, marijuana products, and marijuana accessories are sold to the public.

The Council also approved temporary, nine-month prohibitions on all non-retail marijuana uses such as cultivation, distribution, storage, processing, and manufacturing. As part of the motion, Council directed staff to review the issues associated with these non-retail uses and return within a nine month period with recommendations that regulate these aspects of the marijuana business.

This month, Council will be examining those recommendations and working to implement updates to our code that respects responsible adult use, maintains public safety standards, and generates revenue that can be reinvested in our communities.

California’s Proposition 64 was approved by voters in all nine of San Diego’s council districts last year, but by far saw its greatest support in District Three where more than three-quarters of voters supported passage. It’s important that the will of the voters is respected with prompt action by Council on policies that will balance the right to safe and responsible personal use and maintaining the public safety standards in our neighborhoods.

In the same election last November, more than two-thirds of San Diego voters approved a tax structure for non-medical marijuana. As the city faces its first in a series of expected difficult budget years, implementing a responsible regulatory structure for this sector will unlock millions in new revenue to help invest in public safety and other core community services that have been neglected for far too long.

I’ve been working closely on this process throughout the year and expect we will be able to move forward with responsible regulations, and look forward to your input as we finalize the city’s path forward.

I appreciate the opportunity you continue to provide me to serve the diverse and dynamic communities of District Three. Thank you for all you do to work with me in ensuring our shared success. You can reach out to me by calling my office at (619) 236-6633 or by email at ChristopherWard@sandiego.gov

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Update on Homelessness

While City Council has been on recess for most of August, we’ve continued working on the policies that can have an immediate impact on our homelessness crisis, and opportunities to develop more housing solutions.

During the summer recess, Councilmember Ward travelled to Portland and Seattle, and toured some of the innovative solutions they have been implementing. For example, in Seattle he was joined by Councilwoman Georgette Gómez, Housing Commission CEO Richard Gentry, and Jonathan Herrera, the Mayor’s point person for homelessness, to visit a permitted tiny home village. This temporary facility is giving homeless individuals and couples dignity and security, and moving them into permanent housing at cost effective rates.

The next meeting of the Council’s Select Committee on Homelessness will be on September 13 at City Hall and open to the public. The Committee will examine several specific policy proposals that could provide immediate relief on the streets while we continue to improve our long-term supportive network of services.

Confederate Monument Removed from Downtown

On August 15th, city officials including our office were alerted to a petition calling for the removal of a memorial in Horton Plaza placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy honoring Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Dating back nearly one hundred years, it had been placed, removed, and relocated several times before ending up in this location.

Monuments to bigotry have no place in San Diego, and the importance of taking these issues seriously was tragically underscored by the recent deadly domestic terrorism attack in Charlottesville motivated by white supremacy. Our office was in touch with city staff, and the memorial was removed by the city before 9am the following morning.

We appreciate the clear and prompt direction from the mayor, the citizens of San Diego who highlighted this issue, and the quick response by City staff for their quick response to remove this symbol of hate.

Sign up for our e-news! Visit http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3/

In the Community

Councilmember Ward Community Meetings:

Thank you to everyone who joined us in August throughout the district at our community events. We look forward to seeing you soon out in the community at one of our upcoming events:

- University Heights Coffee with your Councilmember: September 14, 5:30pm - 7pm, Lestat’s on Park, 4496 Park Blvd
- Old Town Office Hours: September 28, 11am - 1pm, Old Mormon Battalion Historic Site, 2510 Juan St.

For more information on either event, contact Brett Weise at bweise@sandiego.gov or (619) 236-6633

At work in your neighborhoods:

- Resurfacing of Lincoln Avenue in North Park after utility undergrounding
- Trash and debris removal under Washington Street Bridge in Mission Hills
- Stop sign installed at intersection of 31st and Cedar in South Park
- Graffiti removed from Junipero Serra Museum
- Removed obsolete signage to restore parking on J Street in Gaslamp
- Scheduled repaving of Sassafras St. at India St. in Middletown
- Illegal dumping removals in Golden Hill, South Park, Mission Hills

Your City at Work

San Diego District 3 / Mid-Year Street Repairs (2017)

- Streets: Nearly a million of streets were repaired or sealed.
- Potholes: Over 1,000 potholes were repaired.
- Trees: Over 3,000 trees were trimmed.
- Graffiti: Over 100,000 square feet of graffiti were either removed or replaced.
- Streetlights: Over 20,000 square feet of streetlights were either repaired or replaced.