



**COUNCILMEMBER  
STEPHEN WHITBURN  
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: May 27, 2022

TO: Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst

FROM: Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, District 3

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Priorities

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On behalf of the residents in District 3, I want to thank the Mayor for his thoughtful consideration of our concerns and his revisions to the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Annual Budget. I was pleased to see that many of the items I have been championing for the community have been incorporated, especially the increased investments in short-term and long-term homelessness solutions and affordable housing, the additional funding to help enhance security and cleaning services at our public restrooms and in our parks, the additional funding to help support the new conservatorship program, as well as the increased funding to our library and arts and culture budgets.

We have made great progress on this budget, and after meeting with residents, local leaders, stakeholders, and regional service providers, I believe it is important for us to make the following future investments: 1) additional short-term housing and homelessness solutions, 2) enhanced neighborhood and park facilities, 3) library upgrades, and 4) improved labor standards, recruitment and retention practices.

As we continue to work on the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, I look forward to developing a balanced budget to include the following items which are important to the residents of District 3:

### **Homelessness and Housing**

The City must continue to make significant investments in housing creation, subsidies, supportive housing, low-income housing, and rapid re-housing to meet the City's needs. We must focus on our youth, seniors, veterans, LGBTQ residents and families to provide them with consistency, flexibility, and extended duration wraparound services.

#### **Safe Village Bridge Shelter Camping Site: \$2.6M**

Additional funding to the San Diego Housing Commission for a Safe Camping location located within the downtown community. A safe village would provide living accommodations, access to sanitation resources, meals, and connection to supportive services in an environment that is safer than our streets and sidewalks. Additional funding to expand shelter capacity downtown will help address the short-term needs of our unsheltered population while continuing to advance our long-term goals.

#### **Downtown and Urban Core Homeless Outreach Efforts: \$1M**

Additional dedicated funding for Downtown, Barrio Logan, Sherman Heights, Logan Heights, Grant Hill, Memorial and Stockton specific homeless outreach efforts and services. Unsheltered homeless outreach is essential to reaching individuals on the street and connecting them to housing and services. The City's Community Action Plan lists outreach as a "key item for immediate consideration" noting that the frontline of the homelessness response system should be led by outreach workers.

#### **LGBTQ Affirming Shelter Beds and Wrap-Around Services: \$2M**

Allocate funding for additional LGBTQ affirming shelter beds and wrap-around services through the San Diego Housing Commission. Of the youth currently experiencing homelessness, 40% identify as part of the LGBTQ community yet in the entire City there are only four shelter beds specifically serving the LGBTQ community.

#### **Housing Stability Fund: \$2.5M**

Additional funding to San Diego Housing Commission for a pilot program to establish a local flexible subsidy pool for up to 24 months of assistance for approximately 200 vulnerable households by covering up to \$500 rental subsidy each month for those who otherwise would not be able to meet their rent obligation.

### **Park Enhancements**

The City of San Diego park and mobility systems provide healthy, sustainable, and enriching environments for all our residents and tourists. Funding for facility improvements is critical to improving the quality of life of our communities.

#### **Three Pergolas for North Park Mini Park: \$425,000**

Additional funding for the North Park Mini Park pergolas (shade structures). Three pergolas were in the original design of the park, and the footings for the future pergolas are already in place. I respectfully request additional funding be added to the budget to complete the project and bring more comfort to residents and families who enjoy the park.

**Sunset Cliffs Natural Park & Linear Section**

Continue funding for improvement and maintenance to preserve and protect the natural park and the linear section along the shore. Sinkholes and drainage issues should be addressed as well as safety signage, ranger patrol and park maintenance which will ensure the safety and help preserve the beauty of the park.

**Beyer Park Development \$2.2M**

The project, located at Beyer Boulevard and Enright Drive, consists of the design and construction of Beyer Park. The General Development Plan was approved by the Park and Rec Board in 2020. Final design has been completed. There is a funding gap of \$2.2M for Phase I due to cost increases and changes to the scope of the project. One-time funding should be allocated to this project as part of the adopted FY23 budget to allow construction to move forward on schedule.

**Street Vending Education and Outreach**

Additional funding should be allocated for the education and outreach to our current street vendors. Materials should be created, and staff should work with the street vendors to ensure assistance in permitting and becoming compliant with the new street vending ordinance.

**Rancho Bernardo Community Park Improvements \$750,000**

Rancho Bernardo Community Park serves 41,000 residents and is the only developed park in the area. This additional funding is to expand hours and increase capacity to meet this expanding community's need.

**Coral Gate Neighborhood Park Playground Improvements \$250,000**

The project provides for the design of playground improvements at Coral Gates Neighborhood Park. Based on our current estimates, the project is fully funded for construction contract, however we are \$240K short on staff charges.

**Neighborhood Enhancements****Illegal Street Racing and Car Modifications \$200,000**

Street racing and car modifications have become an issue in Downtown, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch and Rancho Bernardo. Typical enforcement sweeps include four officers and a sergeant for 8 hours and cost approximately \$3,300 per operation. I am requesting additional \$200,00 to help provide up to 60 operations to combat street racing and loud exhaust issues citywide.

**Unimproved Streets and Alleys \$500,000**

Please review and design the unimproved alley located at Johnson Avenue between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, also the unimproved street at South Bancroft Street at the intersection of Greely Avenue in the community of Stockton.

### **San Ysidro School Traffic Control Measures \$250,000**

The Transportation Department completed in May 2022 an evaluation for a marked crosswalk at the entrance to San Ysidro Middle School located at 4350 Otay Mesa Road. The location qualifies for a marked crosswalk with pedestrian activated flashing beacons and a streetlight, two curb ramps, and a small length of sidewalk are required for the safety of students, parents, and staff members.

### **Convoy Gateway Sign \$1M**

This community plan shares a vision for the Convoy area that includes mix-use development, additional housing opportunities and convenient access to a new trolley line. Part of this new vision for the Convoy area would be the inclusion of a Convoy Gateway Sign that would greet residents and guest who enter the Convoy District's commercial center.

### **STAT Team**

The STAT team's current goal is to build 9 miles of quick-build bikeways per year to meet CAP and Vision Zero goals. Funding should be doubled to increase our FY 23 goals to at least 18 miles of quick-build projects.

### **Barrio Logan Truck Route Traffic Calming \$200,000**

The FY23 budget should include additional funding to install street-calming infrastructure on Beardsley St. (from Logan Ave. to Harbor Dr.) and Boston Ave. (from 28th St. to 32nd St.) to divert toxic air from Barrio Logan and enforce the Barrio Logan Truck Route. Staff is proposing roundabouts at Newton & Beardsley, and Boston & South 30th Street and is in the process of creating some conceptual drawings to share with the community. The FY23 budget should include funding to design and build the proposed traffic calming measures.

### **Graffiti Abatement Services \$2.4 M**

The proposed budget includes funding for graffiti abatement services, including \$300k to help abate graffiti on private property, but the Department does not have all the resources necessary to abate all residential graffiti requests. Three graffiti abatement teams made up of one Utility Worker 2 and one Heavy Truck Driver 2.

### **Small Business Enhancement Program \$695,000**

With approximately 98,044 applicable small businesses will need more from the proposed FY2023 budget.

### **Community Projects, Programs and Services CPPS Funds \$400,000**

Allocated to Council offices to ensure each district office has a minimum of \$100,000 each for community projects, programs, and services.

### **Menstrual Equity**

The City of San Diego does not currently have a citywide distribution program for menstrual health products. I request the City initiate a Free4ME type program to place feminine hygiene

products in 92 city-owned facilities, targeting libraries, recreation centers, and beach comfort stations citywide.

### **San Diego Public Library**

The San Diego Library system consists of the Central Library, 35 branch libraries, and provides online tutoring to support families with distance learning, virtual STEAM, college admission test preparation courses, adult literacy programs, free internet at outdoor computer labs, contactless pick-up services, as well as the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma free through Career Online High School.

### **University Heights and North Park Library Upgrades**

I am requesting the funds needed to design upgraded facilities at both the University Heights and North Park library facilities in the FY 2023 budget.

### **San Carlos Library Design**

I am requesting the funds needed to design this project that has been in the works for nearly 30 years. The branch is currently among the top 10 branches for materials circulation but is one of the worst-rated libraries for condition and maintenance backlog.

### **Enhancing Workforce Recruitment, Retention and Labor Standards**

The City of San Diego must remain competitive in the recruitment, retention and hiring of city employees. The City should also enhance the administration and enforcement of labor standards, and I respectfully request the following positions be reinstated and added to our budget:

#### **City Council Budget Equalization \$765,000**

Reallocate council administration department and committee consultants PE and distribute council PE budgets equally across every council district.

#### **Reinstate 1 FTE - Collections Investigator 1, Delinquent Accounts Program**

The Proposed Budget cuts one Collections Investigator position. I respectfully request that we maintain staffing the position.

#### **Reinstate 1 FTE - Administrative Aide 2, Workers' Compensation Division**

I respectfully request that this position be reinstated.

#### **Add 3 FTE into the Office of the City Attorney**

Add support to the DREAM reviews of expired leases team and to assist with PRA's.

#### **Add 3 FTE's into the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement**

Additions considered should be investigators, attorneys, and community outreach workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my updated budget priorities for this upcoming fiscal year. Should you have any further questions, please free to contact Madeleine Baudoin Ghorashi in my office at (619) 236-6633 or [mbaudoin@sandiego.gov](mailto:mbaudoin@sandiego.gov).