



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 16, 2023

TO: Honorable Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery-Steppe, Budget Review Committee Chair, and Honorable Budget Review Committee Members

FROM: Rolando Charvel, Department of Finance Director and City Comptroller

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Review Committee Referral Responses for May 4, 2023

This memorandum provides responses and/or follow up information to unanswered questions asked at the Budget Review Committee meeting held on May 4, 2023. The responses are listed by department in the order they were reviewed by the Committee.

Development Services Department

COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

QUESTION:

What types of inspections are done virtually?

RESPONSE:

Virtual inspections, using the Microsoft Teams conferencing platform, will be conducted with customers at the job site and a City inspector reviewing qualified projects remotely. Here is a list of single-family, duplex and townhouse project types that are qualified for virtual inspections:

- Air Handlers
- Appliance Vent/Chimney
- Backflow Preventor - Domestic
- Boiler
- Chiller
- Condensing Unit for HVAC
- Drain – Repair/Replacement
- Dryer Vent
- Electrical panel and circuits up to 400 Amps
- Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations
- Exhaust Fan
- Furnace/FAU/Wall Heater
- Gas System Leak Repair
- Gas System/Meter
- Heat Pump
- Heater
- Mini-Split Systems
- Pressure Reducing Valve - Domestic
- Reinspection of minor corrections
- Rooftop-mounted solar photovoltaic
- Sewage Ejector
- Temporary power
- Water heaters
- Water Softener
- Water/Waste Pipe Repair/Replacement

COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

QUESTION:

Why are fewer applicants applying for the Spaces as Places permits?

RESPONSE:

Approximately one hundred applications have been received for Spaces as Places permits. The City took a very business friendly approach to the enforcement of Temporary Outdoor Dining Operations (TOBO) and has been encouraging businesses to remove these expired encroachments, but did not proactively take enforcement actions on expired TOBOs to assist in economic recovery efforts. More recently, complaints about TOBOs have arisen and the City will now be proactively enforcing the removal of all TOBOs in order to comply with the Spaces as Places permitting requirements for use of the public right of way for private business. It is anticipated that another 50 applications might be received in 2023.

Economic Development Department

COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

QUESTION:

The San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce has proposed to launch a 12-month pilot program to assist 100 small businesses to increase their clientele and revenue streams via on-line sales. The estimated cost for the complete implementation of this program is \$335,000. This program could really help the San Ysidro area achieve full recovery from the losses experienced during the pandemic. Could it be funded through the Small Business Enhancement program (SBEP)?

RESPONSE:

SBEP funds are allocated annually consistent with Council Policy 900-15 and the priorities of the Office of the Mayor. Should SBEP be fully funded, Capacity Building grants would be available in Fiscal Year 2024 for nonprofit applicants serving small businesses in under-resourced communities.

QUESTION:

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Logan Heights CDC was awarded just over \$100,000 to provide outreach, education, and technical assistance to street vendors through the Street Vendor Ordinance. Those funds were exhausted by the Logan Heights CDC by December 2022. Is the department considering the allocation of additional funds to the Logan Heights CDC to continue this work in Fiscal Year 2024?

RESPONSE:

The Fiscal Year 2023 funding was provided on a one-time basis to help with the roll out, and education and outreach of vendors to comply with the new Street Vending Ordinance. We do not plan to allocate resources for this purpose in Fiscal Year 2024. \$200,000 of ARPA funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to contract with community-based organizations to provide sidewalk vending outreach and education. Should SBEP be fully funded in the coming fiscal year, Capacity Building grants would be available in Fiscal Year 2024 for nonprofit applicants serving small businesses in under-resourced communities including those that support street vending.

QUESTION:

What funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2024 Economic Development Department budget to contribute to the education, support and success of street vendors?

RESPONSE:

No funding has been proposed for this purpose in Fiscal Year 2024. Should SBEP be fully funded, Capacity Building grants could be available in Fiscal Year 2024 for nonprofit applicants serving small businesses in under-resourced communities including those that support street vending within the City of San Diego.

QUESTION:

The homelessness crisis has affected many businesses in communities like Logan Heights. Some businesses have just decided to leave the area because they could not continue to operate under the conditions caused by street encampments. Has the Economic Development Department worked with the Homeless Strategies and Solutions Department to assist local businesses impacted the most by this situation? Are there resources in this budget for that kind of assistance?

RESPONSE:

EDD recognizes the complexity around addressing the impacts of the homelessness crisis on small businesses. The Department uses a number of revenue sources to support local businesses in districts impacted by homelessness such as the Central Commercial Maintenance Assessment District. EDD has worked with the Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department, and the Small Business Advisory Board, to produce educational materials (**Attachments 1 & 2: Safety Resource Toolkit for Small Businesses in English & Spanish**) to help direct businesses to the resources available to them when dealing with such impacts. The department provides a variety of resources using SBEP and other funds depending on individual business need.

Communications Department

COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

QUESTION:

What is the status of including the date on non-agenda public comment for the CityTV graphic?

RESPONSE:

CityTV has been looking for a long-term solution that works with our existing equipment and staffing. Our production switcher is in need of an upgrade, as the current system is beyond its service life. We are seeking solutions as the vendor of the system we'd like to purchase does not meet the City's procurement requirements for insurance thresholds.

We are looking at other systems that can meet the procurement requirements, but due to availability and the backed-up supply chain, we haven't yet found the right manufacturer. This process is what caused a delay in responding to the Councilmember's request from February regarding the on-air graphics.

While seeking solutions, our team can implement a new graphic for the Non-Agenda Public Comment to include the date. It does require a change in our process, and staff will need to be


Honorable Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery-Steppe, Budget Review Committee
Chair, and Honorable Budget Review Committee Members
May 16, 2023

trained. We have standard graphics for every City Council show that are pre-set, including the Non-Agenda Public Comment, and we have graphics that are customized, which include the date graphic. Prior to each City Council meeting, our team needs to update the graphics and have them reviewed to ensure accuracy on air. It's a little convoluted to explain, but we would love to offer Councilmember von Wilpert and her staff a tour of the studio and control room if she has availability and interest.

CityTV is currently operating with three team members. We have one vacancy that was filled on May 8 and we have another team member who is out on extended leave. Each live meeting is covered by a sole television director who manages the recording, audio, camera shots, switching and graphics, so we have been careful about changing work processes until we are back to regular staffing levels.

The Communications Director will contact the Council Office to extend an offer to tour our studio and control room in CCP and to meet our CityTV team. We would be honored to host the team from Council District 5 sometime soon.

Sincerely,



Rolando Charvel
Department of Finance Director and City Comptroller

RC/jnm

Attachments: 1. Safety Resource Toolkit for Small Businesses
2. Herramientas y Recursos para Pequeños Negocios – Seguridad Publica
(Safety Resource Toolkit for Small Businesses in Spanish)

cc: Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliott
Paola Avila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Eric Dargan, Chief Operating Officer
Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst
Matthew Vespi, Chief Financial Officer
Kristina Peralta, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Kris McFadden, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Alia Khouri, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Casey Smith, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
David Nisleit, Chief of Police, Police Department
Colin Stowell, Fire Chief, Fire-Rescue Department

Page 5

Honorable Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery-Steppe, Budget Review Committee
Chair, and Honorable Budget Review Committee Members
May 16, 2023

cc continued:

Elyse Lowe, Director, Development Services Department
Christina Bibler, Director, Economic Development Department
Nicole Darling, Director, Communications Department
Benjamin Battaglia, Assistant Director, Department of Finance
Rimah Khouri-Velez, Deputy Director, Development Services Department
Maureen Jugar, Deputy Director, Communications Department
Aisha Givens, Program Manager, Economic Development Department
Jessica Lawrence, Director of Policy, Office of the Mayor
Matt Yagyagan, Deputy Director of Policy, Office of the Mayor
Department of Finance Staff

Safety Resource Toolkit for Small Businesses

The Small Business Advisory Board and Economic Development Department compiled resources that can better equip businesses to keep their employees and customers safe. These resources offer guidance on how an employee or business operator can approach quality of life issues related to the current homelessness crisis. The City of San Diego supports and values our small business communities and offers these resources to help businesses cope with current challenges.

Depending on the situation, you may consider referring to these 3 key resources.

1. **9-1-1:** For potentially dangerous situations in which an individual poses an immediate threat to themselves or others.
2. **Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT):** If you contact 9-1-1, they have the capability of dispatching the PERT. This program consists of licensed behavioral health clinicians, law enforcement officers and paramedics.
 - a. Non-emergency: (619) 531-2000 or (858) 484-3154
 - b. www.sandiego.gov/police/community/mental-health
3. **Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT):** If you witness an individual in need of mental health services, you can contact the County of San Diego's MCRT for licensed mental health clinicians, case managers, and peer support specialists who can respond to behavioral health crises calls that do not involve known threats of violence or medical emergencies.
 - a. (888) 724-7240
 - b. www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/BHS_MCRT.html

Is Someone Loitering or Sleeping in Front of Your Business?

We encourage you to use calm language and politely ask them to leave. If they refuse to leave or for potentially dangerous situations in which an individual poses an immediate threat to themselves or others, you are encouraged to contact **9-1-1**. For all other situations, you can call the non-emergency line: (619) 531-2000.

Has Someone Entered Your Business Exhibiting Disruptive Mental Health Behaviors?

We encourage you to use calm language and politely ask them to leave. However, safety is always the priority. If they refuse to leave and the situation escalates, contact 9-1-1 which can dispatch PERT. You may also consider contacting the **MCRT** at (888) 724-7240.

Has Someone Left Hazardous Waste Near Your Business?

If you find hazardous waste such as toxic substances, you may consider contacting the **Environmental Services Department** at (858) 694-7000.

Safety Resource Toolkit for Small Businesses

Resources for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

If you feel comfortable, consider offering the resources provided below.

- **If you observe a child/minor experiencing homelessness** contact San Diego Youth Services sdyouthservices.org/services/homeless-housing-and-support/
- **Within city limits** contact Homeless Response Center at HRCSD@sdhc.org or (619) 880-8810 (resources like shelter, housing, financial assistance, and document preparation)
- **Outside of city but within county limits** contact 211 San Diego at 2-1-1 for county resources
- **For individuals experiencing nonviolent behavioral health crises** contact the County of San Diego's Access and Crisis Line at (888) 724-7240
- **For individuals living in their cars** contact John Lowther at johnl@jfssd.org or (858) 637-3383, the Director of the Safe Parking Program operated by Jewish Family Services of San Diego

Other Helpful Resources

- If your business is within a **Maintenance Assessment District**, you may have a local nonprofit organization managing maintenance services within your district- www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/about/maintenance
- If there is a **trespasser**, San Diego Police Department officers can act as agents for a private property owner. A **Letter of Agency** needs to be on file- www.sandiego.gov/police/services/letter-of-agency *Per California Penal Code section 602, this form must be renewed every 12 months to be effective.
- Are there **encampments** within the public right of way and impeding on your business space? Report it to **Get It Done**- www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done
- Notice an encampment on Caltrans/State Property within your community? Submit a **Customer Service Request to Caltrans**- csr.dot.ca.gov/
- Notice suspicious activity at a **Metropolitan Transit System (MTS)** center within your community? You can inform MTS security and call (619) 595-4960 or text (619) 318-1338.
- For more information visit:
 - Services for Businesses and Business Districts www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/resources/services
 - Homeless Strategies and Solutions www.sandiego.gov/homelessness-strategies-and-solutions

Herramientas y Recursos para Pequeños Negocios- Seguridad Pública

La Junta Asesora de Pequeñas Empresas (Small Business Advisory Board) y el Departamento de Desarrollo Económico compilaron recursos que pueden equipar mejor a las empresas para mantener sus empleados y clientes seguros. Estos recursos ofrecen orientación sobre cómo un empleado u operador comercial puede responder a problemas de calidad de vida relacionados con la crisis actual de falta de vivienda y personas sin hogar. La Ciudad de San Diego apoya y valora a nuestras comunidades de pequeños negocios y ofrece estos recursos para ayudar a las empresas enfrentar los desafíos actuales.

Dependiendo de la situación, puede considerar estos 3 recursos clave.

1. **9-1-1:** Para situaciones potencialmente peligrosas en las que un individuo representa una amenaza inmediata para sí mismo o para otros.
2. **Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT):** Equipo de Emergencias Psiquiátricas. Si se comunica con 9-1-1, ellos tienen la capacidad de enviar personal de PERT. Este programa está formado por médicos licenciados en salud del comportamiento, agentes del orden público y paramédicos.
 - a. Si no es una emergency: (619) 531-2000 o (858) 484-3154
 - b. www.sandiego.gov/police/community/mental-health
3. **Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT):** Equipo Móvil de Crisis. Si mira una persona que necesita servicios de salud mental, puede comunicarse con MCRT del Condado de San Diego. Ellos tienen médicos clínicos de salud mental, administradores de casos y especialistas en apoyo que puedan responder a las llamadas de crisis de salud conductual que no involucren amenazas de violencia o emergencias médicas.
 - a. (888) 724-7240
 - b. www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/BHS_MCRT.html

¿Alguien está Holgazaneando o Durmiendo Frente a su Negocio?

Recomendamos que se exprese tranquilamente y pídale cortésmente que se vayan. Si se niegan irse o en situaciones potencialmente peligrosas en las que una persona representa una amenaza inmediata para sí misma o para otros, le recomendamos que se comunique con **9-1-1**. Para todas las demás situaciones, puede llamar a la línea que no es de emergencia: (619) 531-2000.

¿Alguien ha Entrado a su Negocio Mostrando Comportamientos de una Crisis de Salud Mental?

Recomendamos que se exprese tranquilamente y pídale cortésmente que se vayan. Sin embargo, la seguridad siempre es la prioridad. Si se niegan irse y la situación empeora, comuníquese con el **9-1-1**, puede enviar a PERT. También puede considerar comunicarse con **MCRT** al (888) 724-7240.

¿Alguien ha Dejado Desechos Peligrosos Cerca de su Negocio?

Si encuentra desechos peligrosos, como sustancias tóxicas, puede considerar comunicarse con el **Departamento de Servicios Ambientales** al (858) 694-7000.

Herramientas y Recursos para Pequeños Negocios-Seguridad Pública

Recursos para Personas Sin Hogar

Si se siente confortable, considere ofrecer los recursos a continuación.

- **Si observa a un niño/menor de edad sin hogar**, comuníquese con Servicios Juveniles de San Diego sdyouthservices.org/services/homeless-housing-and-support/
- **Dentro de los límites de la ciudad**, comuníquese con el Centro de Respuesta para Personas Sin Hogar al HRCSD@sdhc.org or (619) 880-8810 (recursos como refugio, vivienda, asistencia financiera y preparación de documentos)
- **Fuera de la ciudad pero dentro de los límites del condado**, comuníquese con 211 San Diego al 2-1-1 para obtener recursos del condado
- **Para personas con crisis de salud conductual no violentas**, comuníquese con la Línea de Acceso y Crisis del Condado de San Diego al (888) 724-7240
- **Para personas que viven en sus automóviles**, comuníquese con John Lowther al johnl@jfssd.org o (858) 637-3383, Director del Programa de Estacionamiento Seguro operado por la organización Servicios Familiares Judíos de San Diego

Otros Recursos Útiles

- Si su negocio se encuentra dentro de un Distrito de Mantenimiento Comercial, es posible que tenga una organización local sin fines de lucro que administre los servicios de mantenimiento dentro de su distrito- www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/about/maintenance
- Si una persona ingresa ilegalmente, oficiales del Departamento de Policía de San Diego pueden actuar como agentes del dueño de la propiedad privada. Una **Carta de Agencia (Letter of Agency)** debe estar en el archivo- www.sandiego.gov/police/services/letter-of-agency *Según la Sección 602 del Código Penal de California, este formulario debe renovarse cada 12 meses para que sea efectivo.
- ¿Hay campamentos dentro del derecho de paso público que obstaculizan su espacio comercial? Repórtelo a **Get It Done**- www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done
- ¿Notó un campamento en Propiedad Estatal/Caltrans dentro de su comunidad? Envíe una **Solicitud de Servicio a Caltrans**- csr.dot.ca.gov/
- ¿Notó actividad sospechosa en un centro del **Sistema de Tránsito Metropolitano (MTS)** dentro de su comunidad? Puede informar a la seguridad de MTS y llamar al (619) 595-4960 o enviar un mensaje de texto al (619) 318-1338.
- Para más información visite:
 - Servicios para Negocios y Distritos Comerciales www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/resources/services
 - Departamento de Estrategias y Soluciones para Personas Sin Hogar www.sandiego.gov/homelessness-strategies-and-solutions