



City Of San Diego
COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD
DISTRICT NINE
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 1, 2013

Reference: M-13-02-01

TO: Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst

FROM: Councilmember Marti Emerald

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Priorities

With the election of our new Mayor, I am very enthusiastic about a budget that puts San Diego neighborhoods first. I am confident that this year's budget will better protect and restore public safety and neighborhood resources, including the following priorities, which I respectfully submit as Chair of the City's Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee:

- ❖ **Citygate Working Group Five Year Plan Recommendations** – In order to stay on track to complete the recommendations outlined in the report, the City needs to fund approximately \$17 million in FY2014. The Five Year Plan also calls for building 10 long-overdue fire stations. Many of these new stations could also incorporate small police storefronts, helping us rebuild our community policing efforts. A public safety or infrastructure bond should be considered to fund these critical stations.
- ❖ **Police Department Five Year Plan Recommendations** – The Five Year Plan for the Police Department needs to be funded in FY2014. The plan calls for an increase in both civilian and sworn personnel staffing levels. I also request the IBA conduct a study regarding sworn police retention. Specifically, the City needs to look at the costs of recruiting new personnel versus creating new incentives to encourage current personnel to stay with the Department.
- ❖ **Lifeguard Training and Equipment** – Ensuring safety at our beaches and bays is of critical importance, especially as we enter our peak tourism season. Our lifeguards must be equipped with the necessary training and equipment to keep people safe. As such, we need to increase funding for our Lifeguard Training Academy and ensure that we have adequate Boating Safety Unit Staffing, along with funding for our R-44 Multipurpose Rescue Vehicle. We also need to ensure

that those protecting us at our beaches have the necessary infrastructure to do their jobs.

- ❖ **Community Policing** – As I've discussed in the past, funding for additional multi-cultural/multilingual Community Relations Officers and Police Service Officers is critical in maintaining our focus on community policing.
- ❖ **Neighborhood Code Enforcement** – I would like to see our FY2014 budget take a strong position on Code Enforcement and, hopefully, restore services reduced the past few years, including enforcement against cars parked on lawns and restoration of proactive enforcement. This should include funding for a code compliance office leased out of the City Heights Town Council office.
- ❖ **Restoration and Increase of Library Hours and Programs**. Library hours should be restored to a minimum of 45 hours per week for our branch libraries.
- ❖ **Restoration of all Revenue Generating Positions** – Over the past few years the City has cut revenue-generating positions from its budget, many of which were civilian positions within the Police Department. These positions include grant writers and enforcement officers, whose work generates more revenue than expended by the cost of their positions. All positions that are cost neutral or may generate additional revenue should be restored immediately.
- ❖ **Street Lights** – The FY2014 budget must provide more funding for our nearly \$30 million backlog in street lights. Street lights are a critical component of public safety in our neighborhoods.

In addition to the above Citywide recommendations, we must support programs and projects that put our neighborhoods first. Please see the following neighborhood projects below, which are high priorities in the District Nine communities I represent:

- ❖ **Southcrest Community Priorities** –
 - **Southcrest Street Lights** – Southeastern Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) committed \$655,600 to the City in February 2010 for the installation of 73 street lights. The project was scheduled for November 2011. The timeline for the installation of the lights has been uncertain and is now awaiting approval.
 - **Southcrest Trails Park** – We are working with Civic San Diego to take the lead on this project. Civic San Diego believes it can streamline the process, thereby saving related time (approximately one year) and \$150,000 in consultant charges. This agreement should be executed as soon as possible.
 - **Southcrest Beta Street Green Alley (east of 38th St.)** – The only alley left unpaved in the Southcrest area is heavily traveled by school children and residents; as a result, the alley today presents an ongoing hazard and

eyesore. \$190,000 is needed to fund this project. Although the San Diego Unified School District, and then SEDC, planned to fund the project, 29 years later the project has yet to be funded.

❖ **City Heights Community Priorities -**

- **City Heights Street Lights** – Pursuant to a report completed by the City Heights Business Association in 2010, 613 standard street lights are needed for safety in order to meet City standards (150 feet between each street light in most areas of City Heights). The cost is estimated at \$5.4 million.
- **City Heights Canyon Loop Trail** – San Diego Canyonlands needs funding to begin implementation of its interconnected canyon loop trail, located in City Heights. The initial phase of the project requires \$365,000 to restore 14 acres and develop canyon openings to provide community access to the canyon. Once trail openings are addressed, San Diego Canyonlands requires additional funding to start the work of building canyon trails.
- **Wightman Neighborhood Park** – This one-acre park in Fox Canyon still needs \$2.363 million in funding for construction.
- **Lighting Enhancements for Islenair** – Acorn street lights are needed for this historic neighborhood. \$30,000 is still required to fully fund the project.
- **54th St & University Ave Re-Configuration & Safety Enhancement** – This project will re-configure the 54th St. and University Ave. intersection to significantly improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and operators, and motorists.
- **Colina Park/City Heights 50th St and University Ave Streetscape Enhancements** –
 - Improve pedestrian safety at 50th St. and University Ave. intersection by adding a pop-out to the southwest corner to improve two-way visibility.
 - Develop a landscaped median/pedestrian-refuge island and include a “Little Mogadishu” sign to support placemaking and economic development in the Somali business cluster (as requested by the community).
- **Sidewalks and street lights in the Colina del Sol City Heights Area** –
 - Install sidewalks at the southeast and southwest corner of Altadena Ave. & Trojan Ave.
 - Install sidewalks at the southwest corner of Altadena Ave. and Orange Ave.
 - Install sidewalks at the southeast corner of Meade Ave. & 53rd St. as well as other missing segment.
 - Install street lights from Euclid Ave to 50th St. along the alleyways.
 - Install street lights on Oak Crest Dr. and 50th St. south of Orange Ave.

- Install lamps on two of the three light posts at Dawson Ave. south of El Cajon Blvd.
 - Fix street lights on Winona Ave. from University Ave. to El Cajon Blvd.
 - **Little Saigon District** – Sidewalks and streetscaping in the Little Saigon District in City Heights on El Cajon Blvd. between Highland Ave. and Euclid Ave.
 - **Southern Sudanese Community Center** – The building currently rented from the City at 4077 Fairmount Ave. is in need of repairs which are estimated at \$12,000.
 - **Student Bus Passes** – A pilot program is needed for student bus passes.
 - **Central Avenue Mini Park Skate Plaza** – Combine Phases I and II of the Central Avenue Mini Park project. Phase II, which will construct the skate plaza, requires \$774,000 in funding which still needs to be identified.
 - **City Heights Skate Park** – A skate park is proposed by the Mid-City CAN Youth Council. The location proposed is City-owned land, adjacent to the current Copley Family YMCA. The vacant 10,000 square-foot dirt lot is centrally located to Cherokee Elementary School and Park de la Cruz, and is zoned for recreational use. We need to identify \$400,000 in funding for both construction and maintenance.
- ❖ **Mount Hope Community Priorities –**
- **Paved Alleys in Mt Hope.**
- ❖ **College Area Community Priorities –**
- **Tubman Charter Joint Use Park** –The total project cost is \$1.72 million, of which \$290,000 in Developer Impact Fees is available for completing the General Development Plan. We must identify interim funding for construction while awaiting a developer's committed funds, which will not be triggered until the issuance of a permit for Phase II of the Silverado Alvarado Apartments project, at a date yet to be determined.
- ❖ **El Cajon Business Improvement District Priorities –**
- \$500,000 to fund double Acorn street lights from Route 15 to Menlo Ave.
 - \$3 million to fund El Cajon Blvd. sidewalk improvement repairs from 44th to 54th St.
- ❖ **El Cerrito Community Priorities –**
- Design and construct traffic circles at two badly configured intersections with a history of traffic accidents: Vale Wy. at Adelaide Ave. and 59th St.; and 60th St. at Estelle St. and Vale Wy. The 2009 estimated costs are \$115,000 and \$117,000 with landscaping; or \$92,000 and \$94,000 without landscaping, respectively.
 - Design and construct a landmark community sign to firmly establish a cohesive neighborhood identity in El Cerrito, which is not only divided by a

major commercial thoroughfare, but is also separated between two community planning areas.

❖ **Kensington Community Priorities –**

- Convert 5,000 volt circuit to 110 volt light in sub-districts 26 and 73 of the City Lighting District 1.
- Add standard cobra head street lights to the Kensington Park and Kensington Place Street Lighting Project.
- Repair the Kensington park playground surface, picnic tables, and fence; upgrade the playground to comply with current ADA standards.
- Repair Kensington curb, gutter, sidewalk, and alley aprons.
- Rehabilitation of Historic Kensington Neighborhood markers, including medians and streetscapes.
- Improve Terrace Park by installing a bocce ball court.

❖ **Talmadge Community Priorities –**

- Aldine Dr. new pocket park, road safety improvements, storm water, and bike path.
- Euclid Ave. & Monroe Ave. pedestrian safety improvements including bulb-outs and an illuminated cross walk.
- Fairmount Ave. erosion control, slope stabilization, and retaining walls.
- 47th St. & Monroe Ave. traffic circle installation, flashing beacons, and traffic calming.

Finally, I wish to use this opportunity to highlight the priorities of the planning groups within our District:

❖ **City Heights Area Planning Committee Priority Projects –**

- Fire Station 17 project to replace the existing, outdated fire station located at 4206 Chamoune Ave. The total project cost is \$8.455 million to demolish the current station and construct a new 10,200 square foot facility.
- Home Avenue Park (planning, design, and construction). Design is currently underway, but we need to ensure \$750,000 available in FY 2014 TransNet funding.
- Install sidewalks along Euclid Ave., at 52nd St. and Landis St., and at Altadena Ave. and 52nd St.
- Construction and maintenance of skate parks, with \$400,000 needed to construct the first site near Cherokee Elementary School and Park de la Cruz.

❖ **College Area Community Planning Board Priority Projects –**

- Montezuma Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project.
- Reservoir Dr. & 70th St. Pedestrian Improvements (street lights and sidewalk improvements).

- Tubman School Joint Use Park.
- Pocket Parks in the College Area.
- Pedestrian Bridge across Montezuma Rd.

❖ **Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee Priority Projects –**

- The followings communities need new sidewalks and ADA ramps where missing and safe routes provided to our schools:
 - El Cerrito
 - Rolando Village
- Implement recommended improvements from the Euclid Avenue Mobility Study.
- Implement Mobility Study of University Ave.

❖ **Southeastern Planning Group Projects –**

- Upgrade traffic signals, illumination, and pedestrian safety zone markings at Ocean View Blvd. & Market Place and Ocean View Blvd. & San Pascual St.
- Traffic signal at S. 29th St. and Ocean View Blvd.
- Willie Henderson Sports Complex – add lighting on the fields and in the parking lots.
- Mountain View Neighborhood Park Area Upgrades including improvements to the children's play area and upgrading the park to comply with current ADA requirements.
- Sidewalk repairs and improvements at Dennis V. Allen Neighborhood Park.

I understand this list of community projects is substantial; however, these improvements are greatly needed – and, in many cases, long overdue – if we are to truly put our neighborhoods first. If you have any questions regarding a specific item, please do not hesitate to contact my office with questions.

In closing, I look forward to approving a FY2014 City budget that responds to community concerns and focuses on funding our core city services – most notably public safety.

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