



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: November 3, 2010

Contact: Katie Keach, 858-245-7673

Protections Approved for Small and Neighborhood Businesses
City Council Approves Ordinance Requiring Impact Studies for Superstores

SAN DIEGO, CA (November 3, 2010) – The San Diego City Council today approved the Ordinance to Protect Small and Neighborhood Businesses proposed by Councilmember Todd Gloria. The ordinance passed with a 5-3 vote, with Councilmembers Ben Hueso, Marti Emerald, Donna Frye and Tony Young joining Councilmember Gloria in support.

The measure would require superstore applicants to provide additional information about a proposed superstore's potential impacts to neighborhoods, local business districts, and small and neighborhood businesses as part of the City's permitting process. It would also require that decision makers make findings as to these impacts before the superstore is approved.

"This ordinance is necessary because various studies have noted the impacts of superstores on local economies, including impacts on neighborhood retailers and supermarkets, consumer choice and benefits, municipal revenues, land use and urban design," said Councilmember Gloria.

Though opponents argued the contrary, the ordinance would not ban supercenters in the City of San Diego. Instead, it will provide critical information to decision makers when such centers or expansions are proposed.

"Council District Three, like so many areas in San Diego, is home to unique small businesses," said Councilmember Gloria. "Large retail centers may impact these shops, and I want to know those impacts before I approve their permits."

The ordinance will protect San Diegans' right to shop where they choose. By providing an additional level of review for superstores, and by providing protections to small and neighborhood businesses, consumers who wish to shop in their neighborhood or at a superstore will continue to have both choices.

The ordinance earned the support of hundreds of individuals and small business owners and was formally endorsed by the Business Improvement District Council and the Neighborhood Market Association. Supporters uniformly expressed concerns about the potential impacts that superstores have shown to have on nearby businesses and business areas.

The ordinance needs to be heard by the City Council a second time for final approval, which will likely occur on November 16.

###