



News from **Councilmember Todd Gloria**

City of San Diego

NEWS RELEASE

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Councilmember Gloria Secures \$51K for Needle Exchange Program *Funding Ensures Continuation of the Critical Health Program*

SAN DIEGO, CA (April 11, 2012) – San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria today announced that he secured \$51,000 to keep the local syringe exchange program operational. Safe Point San Diego, which is run by Family Health Centers of San Diego, accepts used syringes and provides clean ones for community health benefit at two weekly clinics, one in North Park and one Downtown.

“Safe Point San Diego makes our region safer, and ensuring it remains running is in the best interest of the entire community,” said Councilmember Gloria.

Understanding the critical importance of the region's only syringe exchange program, Councilmember Gloria led the effort to accumulate funds from the Community Projects, Programs and Services (CPPS) accounts of his council colleagues. Councilmember Gloria contributed \$11,000, Council President Tony Young, Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer, and Councilmembers Marti Emerald and David Alvarez each contributed \$10,000. CPPS funds are the result of budgetary savings in each council office. The number fluctuates annually based on savings generated by each office and can be used for community benefit.

The City Council approved the allocation to Safe Point San Diego by a vote of 7-1 on Tuesday, April 10.

Safe Point San Diego has already secured full funding for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The \$51,000 approved this week will keep the program running until then.

Safe Point San Diego was created in 2001 when the San Diego City Council formally declared a state of emergency due to the spread of the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), exacerbated by the shared use of syringes by injection drug users.

The program has proved a valuable public safety tool:

- Prevented more than 1.5 million dirty syringes from being improperly disposed of on City streets, parks and beaches;
- Taken in 164,223 more syringes than it has dispensed; and
- Facilitated 29,773 referrals to support services including 2,529 referrals to detoxification services and 2,238 referrals to drug treatment programs.

Councilmember Gloria has previously allocated CPPS funds for fire station improvements, the Water Man Check-in Center, and numerous park programs and improvements.

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