

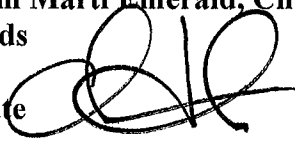


**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
SIXTH DISTRICT**

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

**DATE:** January 16, 2015

**TO:** Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald, Chair, Committee on Public Safety  
and Livable Neighborhoods

**FROM:** Councilmember Chris Cate 

**SUBJECT:** Public Safety Priority Memo

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I appreciate the opportunity to share my public safety priorities for 2015. I truly look forward to working collaboratively to address some of the City's most pressing issues and challenges.

**Expand the City's Efforts to End Homelessness**

The City of San Diego has recently made significant improvements to provide enhanced critical services to the homeless. With the solicitation of bids for a permanent homeless shelter and the development of the Homeless Management Information System, the City continues to demonstrate its commitment to ending homelessness. However, ending homelessness continues to be a challenge for the City of San Diego. Many individuals find themselves seeking shelter in the canyons of Council District 6. These transient camps present a myriad of problems, including illegal dumping and fire concerns. The City should identify opportunities for collaboration between Parks and Recreation, the San Diego Housing Commission, the San Diego Police Department, and other service non-profits to connect homeless individuals with housing, medical, and vocational services.

**Increase City Partnership with Neighborhood Watch Programs**

Neighborhood Watch (NW) programs are one of the most effective tools in preventing crime and bringing communities together through police-citizen partnerships. With an emphasis on stopping crimes before they occur, NW promotes public safety and enhances our quality of life, while easing the burden on local law enforcement agencies. Committee staff should work with the San Diego Police Department to identify the best practices of successful NW programs and explore options for implementation and citywide expansion.

**Evaluation of San Diego's Community Policing Programs**

According to the Department of Justice, "Community policing recognizes that police can rarely solve public safety problems alone and encourages interactive partnerships with relevant stakeholders." The City should play a strategic role in assembling various resources at its disposal, including the non-profit and faith communities, cultural organizations, youth programs, and regional public agencies. A broad, collaborative network will help foster a vibrant municipal public safety program. The Committee should receive a presentation on the current state of SDPD community policing programs

including, but not limited to, D.A.R.E.®, foot patrols, bike patrols, and substations. Additionally, the Committee should have a presentation on the effectiveness of previously successful programs and feasibilities for re-implementation.

**Update on the Implementation of the Police Department's 5-Year Plan**

In order for the San Diego Police Department to reach their sworn staffing goal of 2,128 officers by Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, as outlined in the Five-Year Plan, SDPD must hire more officers than it loses to attrition each year. On September 11, 2014, the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) released a report on hiring and attrition trends in early FY 2015. As noted in the report, during the first two months of FY 2015 attrition was 60% over the rates assumed in the budget. The Committee should receive an updated report on the attrition rates and request that SDPD and the IBA evaluate the options laid out in the report to address the attrition problem and increase sworn officer staffing.

**Evaluation of Public-Private Partnerships for Funding of Additional Neighborhood Park Space**

There are many advantages to public-private partnerships; reduction of operating budgets by supplementing public funds, private sector innovation allowing for better public service, faster project completion, and greater price and schedule certainty. The Committee should explore partnership opportunities for the development of vacant parcels into park space. The returns on investment in additional park space range from mitigating the City's park ratio deficiency to increasing public health and well-being and should be a priority.

**Expand the City's Traffic Signal Optimization Program**

As San Diego's population continues to expand in dense neighborhoods, traffic congestion and commuting times will continue to be heavily impacted. Traversing through key transit corridors in Council District 6 has proven to be difficult, especially during peak hours. Through a public-private partnership with QUALCOMM, the City initiated a pilot traffic signal optimization program on Lusk Boulevard. The City should receive a report from the Department of Transportation and Stormwater to discuss the results of this pilot program and explore opportunities for expansion in other neighborhoods.

CC:jc

cc: Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer  
Honorable Councilmembers