



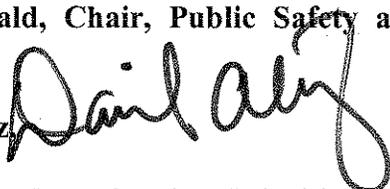
COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ

**City of San Diego
Eighth District**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 3, 2011

TO: Councilmember Marti Emerald, Chair, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

FROM: Councilmember David Alvarez 

SUBJECT: 2011 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Priorities

In response to your memorandum of December 15, 2010, the following is a list of issues that the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee should consider this coming year:

- **Reinstitution of the Lifeguard Training Program and Relief Staffing:**
 - **Lifeguard Training Program:** Lifeguards perform thousands of water rescues annually. For the last three years, lifeguards trained during the winter on "Training Wednesday." Due to the loss of Training Wednesdays through budget cuts, lifeguards are not able to keep up with mandated training. The opportunity to prepare younger lifeguards to learn and take over responsibilities of lifeguards leaving the service is severely impacted without these training sessions. It is vital that the city continue training new lifeguards and that current lifeguards use the training to remain up to date on the most efficient and effective methods of providing life-safety services in the beach areas.
 - **Relief Staffing:** Lifeguards have lost the ability to maintain a healthy relief lifeguard system due to cuts over the last few years. Relief lifeguards provide back-fill so the city does not have to pay overtime. They fill shifts vacated due to injury, court, military, maternity, illness, vacation, etc. Lifeguards have a very high injury rate and a healthy relief system is vital to their ability to operate

efficiently and effectively. Without this system in place it would seem the city is paying the additional cost of overtime, which may be more expensive than retaining some relief lifeguards.

- **Evaluating the service levels provided by City Emergency Responders:** It is vital to all San Diegans that public safety services meet the appropriate national standards. Providing our public safety officers the resources they need is key to meeting these standards. Determining the level at which the city will be able to successfully provide such services is important as we move into the next fiscal year. I would request that the committee be given an update on how, after years of budget cuts and decreased staffing, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, Police Department and Lifeguard Services compare to applicable national standards for emergency response in each respective area.
- **Community Policing:** The presence of community relations officers within our neighborhoods is a vital piece of connecting residents with the public safety services available to them. Retention of current community relations officers and any opportunity to increase their presence in the community needs to be considered as we move into the next fiscal year.
- **Neighborhood Parks and Recreation Centers:** Neighborhood parks and recreation centers throughout the city provide safe areas for recreation and family activities, as such identifying and prioritizing the community parks that receive the most use, and therefore require higher levels of upkeep and maintenance, should be a goal of this committee.

I look forward to serving on the PS&NS committee in 2011 and working with each committee member to ensure that the city develops policies and procedures that keep our citizens safe and provides equally high levels of city services to all neighborhoods throughout San Diego.

CC: Honorable Mayor Sanders
Andrea Tevlin, IBA

DA/ks