



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

Seventh District

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Geni Cavitt
Phone: 619-236-6677
E-mail: gcavitt@sandiego.gov

Emerald Stands up for Small Business and Consumers Contentious Superstore Ordinance Approved by City Council

Councilmember Marti Emerald joined her Council colleagues in approving an ordinance aimed at protecting small business from so-called Superstores. The measure prompted a sweeping media blitz by retail giant Walmart, which claimed the City Council was attempting to ban their stores and limit where value conscious consumers can shop.

“That just isn’t true and Walmart knows it”, said Councilmember Emerald. “Walmart spent enormous money on false and misleading advertising intended to bully the Council and frighten consumers. It’s reprehensible”.

Emerald said the new ordinance would require large retailers that want to build stores more than 90,000 square, selling at least 10% non-taxable goods (like food and prescription drugs), to perform an Economic and Community Impact report, detailing how their Superstore would impact smaller businesses and neighborhoods within a five mile radius.

“This is designed to preserve more shopping choices. That’s good for consumers,” said Councilmember Emerald.

The ordinance was approved on a 5-3 vote, going next to the Mayor. If he vetoes the measure it will come back to the City Council December 2 for a veto-override vote.

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