



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

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For Immediate Release

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CITY HEIGHTS ALBERTSONS STORE AND PHARMACY CLOSURE

Bad news for consumers in the San Diego community of City Heights. The neighborhood's largest grocery store, Albertsons at University and Fairmount Avenue, is closing its doors February 20th. Councilmember Marti Emerald says this is a serious blow to consumers who have come to rely on the foods and pharmacy services provided at the City Heights store.

This planned closure of a major national retailer is unfortunately a common story in older, low income neighborhoods. "Albertsons says this store is not meeting the company's financial goals. But the store and its on-site pharmacy are hugely important to the community," according to Councilmember Marti Emerald.

"Consumers in lower income neighborhoods like City Heights already have limited options for fresh foods and health services. And most City Heights residents don't have cars to drive to large competitively priced grocery stores in other neighborhoods. This will pull the rug from under consumers who already struggle to get healthy foods and medicine," says Councilmember Emerald.

The City Heights Albertsons is one of eleven stores in Southern California targeted for closure. A company spokesperson says, "Albertsons has a responsibility to do what is best for the long-term growth and success of the company as a whole." A liquidation sale begins next week. Doors close permanently February 20th, according to the company spokesperson.

No word, yet, for customers of the Sav-On pharmacy inside the store. Albertsons says, "Signs will be posted on the store windows providing details."

Meantime, Kimco, the property manager for the Albertsons site, says it is actively marketing this retail space and is in discussions with several potential tenants, including a grocery operator. However, there is no signed replacement lease, yet.

Councilmember Emerald's office will work with consumers concerned about their options, and will keep the community posted on new developments.

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