



# The Emerald News

Office of  
Council President Pro Tem  
Marti Emerald



Volume 7, Issue 5

May 2015

## District 9

### Communities

- Alvarado Estates
- Azalea Park
- Castle
- Catoctin
- Cherokee Point
- Chollas Creek
- Colina Park
- College Area
- College View Estates
- Corridor
- Denstedt Point
- East Falls View
- El Cerrito
- Fairmount Park
- Fairmount Village
- Fox Canyon
- Hollywood Park
- Islenair
- Kensington
- Mesa Colony
- Mountain View
- Mt Hope
- Ridgeview
- Rolando
- Southcrest
- Talmadge
- Teralta-East & West
- Willie Henderson

Dear Friends:

Thank you for taking the time to read the May issue of the Emerald News. As my colleagues and I work to finalize and balance our city's budget, I urge you to share your priorities with my office. You can do so by reaching out to your community representative or by emailing me at [MartiEmerald@sandiego.gov](mailto:MartiEmerald@sandiego.gov). At the moment, the following are my priorities for funding in the Fiscal Year 2015 Mid-Year and 2016 Budget:

### Public Safety

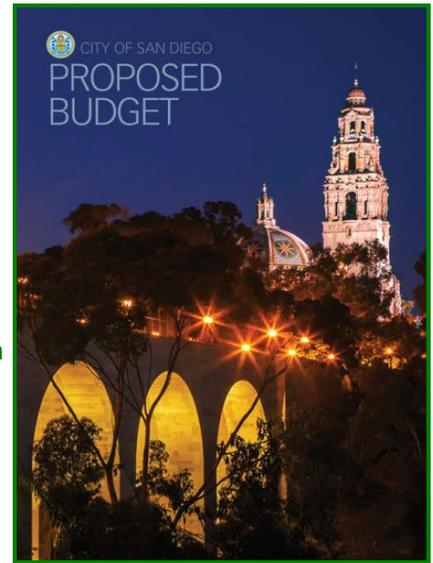
Police Recruitment and Retention: Public Safety remains my highest budget priority. The City must prioritize the recruitment and retention of police officers. Of the utmost importance is making the San Diego Police Department's salary and benefits comparable with other law enforcement agencies.

Community Oriented Policing: The recent events in Ferguson, Mo. and other parts of our nation have brought new focus on the need to improve law enforcement's interaction with the public it serves. In San Diego, Community Oriented Policing efforts have proven to be effective. It is imperative that we continue to invest resources to expand the program to continue to build the trust and relationship between our residents and police officers.

Implementation of PD Five Year Plan: Civilian Positions and Equipment Replacement: The City must continue to implement the Police Department's Five Year Plan. The restoration of civilian staff will allow existing sworn officers to return to patrol duties. I ask that the addition of positions within the Communications/Dispatch Division be prioritized. There is currently a shortage of positions, resulting in mandatory overtime.

Home Avenue Fire Station: The City must prioritize the identification and acquisition of land for a much-needed fire station on Home Avenue. In addition, the design of this fire station must be completed in FY16. I am requesting that \$900,000 be budgeted for this phase of the project.

Neighborhood Code Compliance: The Neighborhood Code Compliance Division of the Development Services Department administers programs designed to protect the public's health, safety, welfare, and property value through enforcement of the City's ordinances and State/Federal laws relating to land use, zoning, housing, public nuisances, graffiti abatement, and vegetation/fire hazard abatement. For too long, the staffing levels in the Division have been dismal and enforcement priorities have been adjusted downward to keep pace. I am requesting that the resource capacity of the department be analyzed and considered for additional funding.



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## Budget (Continued)

### Infrastructure

Streetlights: \$1 million to install approximately 100 streetlights citywide in areas with the most urgent public safety needs for additional streetlights, as identified in the Street Division streetlight unfunded needs list. Installation priorities include area with high pedestrian activity, including parks, community centers, schools, business corridors, and transit stations. Street lighting can be an important tool in combating crime, as well as increasing safety for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians.

Accelerate Citywide Park and Recreation Condition Assessment: \$1.5 million to provide full funding to complete the condition assessment in two years rather than five. The City must complete this assessment in order to direct invest in under-resourced public parks and help to address system-wide needs for park equity throughout our city's neighborhoods.

Pedestrian and Cycling Safety Upgrades: Every day on average, three people are hit by a car while walking or biking the streets of the City of San Diego. These incidents are preventable and safer street design is one of the key ingredients for success.

### Operational Needs

Restore Recreation Center hours: \$2.3 million to provide for the addition of five hours of operation at every recreation center. There are numerous community benefits created by parks and recreation centers. They make communities desirable places to live, work, play, and visit, thereby contributing to the ongoing economic vitality of communities throughout our region.

Restore 6-to-6 Program: Initiate conversations and negotiations to reinstate the 6-to-6 program at all City schools. In FY04, the City invested \$5 million as part of a San Diego Unified School District program.

Purchasing and Contracting: It is the City's policy to encourage greater availability, capacity development, and contract participation by Small Local Business Enterprises (SLBEs) in City contracts. This policy is, in part, intended to further the City's compelling interest to stimulate economic development through the support and empowerment of the local community. We must ensure that adequate resources and staffing levels are in place to ensure that the City is adequately promoting equal opportunity for all segments of the contracting community.

### District 9:

Grounds Maintenance Worker 2: \$70,600 (annually) for City Heights area parks.

Park at Chollas Parkway: \$250,000 for a General Development Plan to design a community park and open space network that utilizes the existing Chollas Parkway right-of-way from 54<sup>th</sup> Street on the west to University Avenue on the east. The open space lands would be part of a habitat restoration effort consistent with the goals of the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program.

Relocation of Electrical Boxes on Meade Avenue, CIP B14048: \$91,000 to complete the design and engineering and relocate three utility boxes (with traffic signal controls) in the public Right-of-Way on Meade Avenue, between 43<sup>rd</sup> and Fairmont, adjacent to the new Copley-Price YMCA. The sidewalk improvements generated by the YMCA project should be completed by moving these city-owned utility boxes from the middle of the sidewalk, where they could block pedestrian access and attract graffiti.

Flashing Crosswalk at Adams Avenue and Kensington Drive: \$60,000 to install a flashing crosswalk using in-pavement flashers and flashing signs to improve pedestrian safety. There is a thriving business community at this location that attracts customers and visitors from and outside the neighborhood. The lack of a crosswalk has made it dangerous and challenging for pedestrians to cross Adams Ave., particularly at night. The installation of a flashing crosswalk would improve the safety of pedestrians by warning oncoming traffic of people crossing.

I encourage you to take the time to look through the mayor's proposed budget to see if your priorities are being met. My staff and I are available to discuss your thoughts. You can access the proposed budget by visiting: [sandiego.gov/fm/index.shtml](http://sandiego.gov/fm/index.shtml)

- Marti

# Public Safety

## Joint Meeting of Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee

### and Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

Wed., May 13 at 5:30pm at Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, 404 Euclid Avenue

Chief Zimmerman will discuss all 40 Recommendations released in the Department of Justice Report. The recommendations relate to police policies and procedures. Chief Zimmerman will also highlight what recommendations have been implemented and a status on recommendations to be implemented in the future. The Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention will present a request for approval of a resolution recognizing **Trauma Informed Care** which will then be forwarded to the full council for approval by all Councilmembers and the Mayor. Trauma Informed Care is a component of Restorative Justice. In May 2013, The City proclaimed May 1, 2013 Trauma Informed Care Day in the City of San Diego. In December 2013, the City of SD adopted a symbolic resolution supporting the Live Well Initiative.

THE SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
IS HOSTING A  
PUBLIC SAFETY RECRUITING FAIR  
JACOBS CENTER  
404 EUCLID AVENUE  
May 9, 2015 from 9am-12pm  
**NOW HIRING**  
JOIN OUR TEAM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
WWW.JOINSDPDNOW.COM

For more info, contact Officer T. White @ (619)515-2700 or twhite@pd.sandiego.gov

# Southcrest Basketball Courts

The basketball courts at Southcrest Park are reopened and ready for action once again. The last time the courts were worked on was five years ago when they were only given minor maintenance work. The community had noticed that the courts were due for a complete resurfacing and we are happy to report that this \$14,000 project has been completed. A big thank you to Kim Mathis and the Park and Recreation staff for making this happen!



## May is Bike Month

# BIKE MONTH 2015



May is Bike Month and Friday, May 15 is Bike to Work Day. I'd like to invite you to help SANDAG spread the word and get your community ready to GO by BIKE! More than 8,700 people in the San Diego region chose to GO by BIKE in May 2014, logging more than 272,000 bike commute miles throughout Bike Month. Our 2015 goal is to have 25,000 bike commute miles logged on Bike to Work Day, the equivalent of one trip around the world and one million calories burned – we hope you'll join us!

## April Highlights



I recently celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the Living Wage Ordinance with five of the original San Diego City Councilmembers who made it happen: Toni Atkins, Donna Frye, Mike Zucchet, Ralph Inzunza, and Tony Young.



The San Diego Police Department and the San Diego Police Officers Association gave me a chance to walk in the shoes of a police officer and briefly experience some of the issues our officers go through on a daily basis. I had the opportunity to participate in vehicle stop, firearm and use-of-force training activities as well as discuss policy and procedures regarding the use of body cameras.