



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 21, 2015

TO: Honorable Councilmember Marti Emerald, Chair, Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Councilmember Todd Gloria 

SUBJECT: Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee Priorities for 2015

I feel fortunate to return as a member of the San Diego City Council Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods (PS&LN). Per your request, I am including my priorities for committee discussion and action below.

San Diego Police Department Staffing and Focus

- The retention of experienced officers in the San Diego Police Department is the city's biggest short-term challenge. While the city continues to negotiate with the Police Officers Association to develop an appropriate compensation plan, I ask the committee to continually examine the staffing levels of SDPD so we can recommend appropriate adjustments and so that the public is aware of our challenges.
- As we work to stabilize the staffing of the SDPD, shifting its focus back to community policing is a worthy goal of PS&LN. As officer numbers have decreased over the years, the department has understandably been forced to prioritize law enforcement over prevention-oriented community policing. The relationship between San Diegans and our police officers cannot be ignored. San Diego has been fortunate to avoid the severe conflicts between our police officers and community members seen in so many other areas of our country, due in part to the strong collaborative and mutually respectful relationship between the officers and those they serve and protect here. A renewed focus on community policing will better ensure stable security throughout our city.
- Coinciding with the request above, I would like the committee to examine additional funding for SDPD's Patrol Division. It would be my hope that these funds would be allocated for an additional Neighborhood Resource Team at Central Division and Western Division.

Oversight of Homeland Security

- The performance audit of the Office of Homeland Security in July 2014 contained findings of concern, especially the lack of Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) throughout city departments. I request PS&LN include monthly updates from Homeland

Security on the status of all departmental COOPs, which could be included as informational reports on the consent agenda. I further request a presentation from Homeland Security before September to go over the city's emergency operations plans and emergency management plans in detail. This should include emergency procedure awareness materials for members of the public that visit the city's public facilities.

- A hearing examining the city's current emergency management structure may be of further assistance in ensuring San Diego is using the best known practices in this continually-developing sector.
- The other audit recommendations should also be reviewed by the committee this year, including the updating of relevant sections of the Municipal Code to reflect Homeland Security's duties, the development of performance measures to better evaluate coordination and oversight of departments' emergency readiness; and the coordination with Human Resources to develop trainings to familiarize employees with the city's emergency management program.

San Diego Fire-Rescue Resources

- San Diego Fire-Rescue completed a 90-day pilot Mobile Operations Detail on Saturday evenings last summer that very successfully responded to emergency calls in the Gaslamp Quarter. I support this program becoming permanent in FY 16 and expanded to include both Friday and Saturday nights. Should this be approved in the budget, I request the committee schedule a presentation on its performance by the end of this calendar year.
- I request the committee closely examine the results thus far of the Fast Response Squad operating in the city. Their initial response times should be measured against their full capabilities to address every call to which they are dispatched to ensure decisions whether to continue Fast Response Squads and expand them are well-informed.
- While San Diego Fire-Rescue has not seen its staffing numbers decrease as significantly as SDPD, I ask PS&LN for quarterly updates on Fire-Rescue staffing levels, including the number of years of service of those promoted to new positions of authority to ensure an appropriate level of experience in each rank.

Homelessness Program Monitoring

- I appreciate the City Council's support in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget for my proposed re-allocation of the city's limited homeless services funds. As Chair of the Regional Continuum of Care Council, I would like to offer biannual monitoring reports of how the funded programs are functioning. Including experts in a hearing on homelessness program best practices and local program outcomes is also requested.

Emergency Medical Services RFP

- I ask the committee include monthly updates on the status of the city's emergency medical services contract and the required request for proposals for a new contract.

Human Trafficking

- The committee should remain abreast of local efforts to address human trafficking and cultivate greater collaboration between SDPD, the City Attorney, District Attorney, and federal agencies to ensure San Diego is a strong partner in fighting this growing problem in our region.

Maintenance Assessment Districts

- I request the committee consider an update to Municipal Code Chap 06 Art 05 Div 02, Maintenance Assessment Districts (MADs). The committee should examine the policy

for changes such as allowance for advances rather than reimbursements, a revaluation of the contingency reserve requirements, and allowance for multiyear contracts for the organizations that administer the city's self managed MADs.

- The committee should also welcome a staff report on administrative fees for the MADs and consider whether a more universal fee structure could be applied to both the Park and Recreation MADs and Economic Development MADs.

Parking Enforcement/Code Enforcement

- I ask the committee to request a report on off hour enforcement for the Neighborhood Parking Protection Ordinance. Evaluating the potential for additional parking enforcement opportunities during late night hours, including but not limited to enforcement zones and overnight residential parking permit zones, would be an appropriate next step to ensure this law generates the changes desired.

Graffiti Abatement Audit Follow Up

- The committee should request an update on Streets Division's pilot program on centralizing graffiti complaint input and response subsequent to the audit presented to the City Council. Community members commonly complain that the reporting for graffiti process is confusing. The auditor's report showed that there were various hotlines and service request submission pages by which graffiti could be reported, and the city (via Streets Division, SDPD, and Code Enforcement), Urban Corps, and utility companies would all only handle graffiti in their designated areas, even if other graffiti was clearly visible in close proximity. Ensuring appropriate changes are implemented is within the committee's purview, and all neighborhoods would benefit from clarity on graffiti reporting and abatement.

Park and Recreation

- I suggest the committee examine Council Policy 700-35 City Development of School Sites for Park Purpose for potential updates based on the concern of the loss of park space when the school district and city agree to rededicate joint use fields for other purposes, as has occurred at Washington Elementary School and Point Loma High School.

Thank you for considering my requests. If you have any questions or comments about these items, please let me know or contact Katie Keach of my staff at 235-5268 or kkeach@sandiego.gov.

cc: Honorable Councilmembers
Independent Budget Analyst Andrea Tevlin