



**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
SIXTH DISTRICT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** October 19, 2021

**TO:** Mayor Todd Gloria

**FROM:** Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6

**SUBJECT: Return All Juvenile Services, School Safety Patrol programs, and STAR/PAL to Fully Funded Levels for Fiscal Year 2022; Explore the Possibility of Designating a Portion of Parking Fines Collected in School Zones to the School Safety Patrol Programs; and Pursue New, Additional Funds from the California Office of Traffic Safety to Support these Essential Programs**

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The City of San Diego is home to more than 1.39 million residents. According to a recent report, an overwhelming majority of San Diego's residents are school-aged children (ages five to eighteen).

San Diego's Sixth Council District includes the neighborhoods of Clairemont Mesa, Kearny Mesa, Miramar, Mira Mesa, Rancho Peñasquitos, and Sorrento Valley. District 6 residents are served by two public school districts (San Diego Unified and Poway Unified), seven high schools, eight middle schools, and 24 elementary schools. With schools in full swing operating safely and providing in-person learning, kids are walking, bussing, and driving to school campuses.

Founded in 1935 by the San Diego Police Department (SDPD), the School Safety Patrol (SSP) was established to assist elementary school children across uncontrolled intersections on their way to and from school, and to reduce the number of pedestrian and bicycle collisions involving elementary age students. SDPD's School Safety Patrols are on nearly 80 school campuses throughout the City of San Diego. Fifth and sixth grade students make up nearly 2,000 School Safety Patrol members whose job it is to cross children and adults safely at their school locations. They are selected, trained, and supervised on an ongoing basis by Juvenile Services Team Officers from eight area stations. SSP tasks include controlling pedestrian traffic, regulating vehicle traffic, and watching and reporting traffic violations.

Moreover, Vision Zero was born in 2015 when the City Council adopted a goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2025. Over the past half decade, the City has invested more than \$140 million into projects to protect and save lives.

Public safety is one of my top priorities. As Chairman for the Budget & Government Efficiency Committee, difficult decisions were made in years prior, and, I have seen first-hand the implications cutting back on neighborhood programs has had on our youth and our communities. Therefore, I am proposing to return all Juvenile Services, School Safety Patrol programs, and STAR/PAL to fully funded levels for Fiscal Year 2022.

Additionally, I am asking the City to explore the possibility of designating a portion of parking fines collected by the City Treasurer in School Zones to School Safety Patrol Programs in the City of San Diego. According to the State of California, a school zone is defined by "an area in, or on the grounds of, a public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, or within a distance of 1,000 feet from the grounds of the public or private school."

Currently, School Zones have signs posted indicating parking is prohibited. If someone receives a ticket in a School Zone, it is clearly defined on the parking ticket. The officer will issue a violation of the posted signs, and in their remarks indicate that it is a School Zone. Lastly, all net parking citation revenue is distributed to the issuing agency/City department on a monthly basis. This is required per the California Vehicle Code. Per the City Treasurer, \$23 million was collected in gross parking citations for the FY 2021. A portion of future dollars received by the City Treasurer is therefore able to be designated to School Safety Patrol Programs.

SSP programs are currently supported by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), and partially funded by the City of San Diego. The City should pursue additional new funds from OTS to support these essential programs. Juvenile Services, School Safety Patrol programs, and STAR/PAL are integral parts of San Diego and our Vision Zero strategy. I believe we can work together to create a safe San Diego for all.

cc: Jessica Lawrence, Director of Policy, Office of Mayor Todd Gloria  
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