



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD  
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

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

DATE: January 24, 2019

TO: Council President Georgette Gómez, Chair, Rules Committee

FROM: Councilmember Christopher Ward, Third Council District

SUBJECT: Rules Committee Priorities for 2019

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In response to your request for priorities for the Rules Committee, I offer the following suggestions as we develop our work plan:

*Elections and Ballot Measures:* In 2017, the City Council approved amendments to Council Policy 000-21: *Submission of Ballot Proposals* to provide sufficient time for consideration of proposals. The committee must prioritize and have adequate time to fully engage in the process and actively participate in the vetting of potential ballot measures for the upcoming 2020 elections. Additionally, the committee, in partnership with the Offices of the City Attorney, Clerk and Independent Budget Analyst should work to standardize the process and formats by which ballot measures are submitted to Council for review. This will ensure that adequate information is provided and will also enable the Council/Council Committee to provide policy direction and request legal analysis as necessary.

- The committee should begin the process to develop a potential Council-initiated ballot measure for a general increase to the Transit Occupancy Tax to address pressing needs for the city. While there is currently a citizens' proposal which also proposes an increase to the TOT, the Council necessarily had no role or input in developing that measure. Further, the future of the land it proposes to use for its project is unclear, and the will of voters when it eventually appears on the ballot is uncertain. An open and transparent conversation about a Council-initiated general TOT increase can help facilitate a proposal that is shaped with the input of the public and directly reflects the priorities of San Diegans.
- The committee should begin the process to develop a potential Council-initiated ballot measure to approve the issuance of municipal bonds to finance the construction of permanent supportive housing and affordable housing units for veterans, seniors, persons with disabilities, and lower income families with children to reduce homelessness.

### *Gun Violence Prevention*

- The committee should develop a safe storage ordinance similar to those in Los Angeles and other California cities which require handguns be locked up or disabled with a trigger lock at home, and establish violation of storage requirements to be a misdemeanor.
- A Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) allows family members, household members, and law enforcement to work with courts to temporarily remove guns and prevent the purchase of new guns by individuals who pose a significant risk of harm to themselves or others. The GVRO Program spearheaded by City Attorney Mara Elliott has been successful in obtaining more than 80 restraining orders in Calendar Year 2018. However, all GVROs expire after 12 months. The Committee should explore options that allow the City to petition the Superior Court of San Diego for GVRO renewals, and advance the use of GVROs in the region and in the state.

### *Customer Service, Open Government, and Public Outreach*

- The committee should receive updates from the Performance and Analytics Department regarding progress towards the development of a 311 system as well as the performance, status and expansion opportunities of other customer service applications such as the Get It Done Program.
- The committee should explore opportunities to increase the functionality of the City Council's constituent services database Intranet Quorum (IQ), or a competitor product. Opportunities exist to improve communication and timely resolutions to casework, increase public access, automate service status updates, and more.
- In an effort to provide a more efficient and transparent government, the committee should explore opportunities to make information about City operations and projects more readily available, up-to-date, and useful to members of the public. Specifically, resident notification for city projects affecting neighborhoods and businesses should be uniform across all departments including a city point-of-contact, project scope, duration, etc.

### *Boards and Commissions*

- The committee should continue the work initiated in previous years to:
  - Improve the appointment process, including standardizing staff support and training for boards and commissions;
  - Explore requesting annual work plans and regular reporting requirements, for example quarterly or semiannual reports;
  - Review all the City boards and commissions, including those that are inactive, to ensure they continue to perform their intended functions and service to the City;
  - Assess each board and commission based on its function and benefit to either policy making or City operations;
  - Look into whether some boards and commissions could be consolidated or reorganized to be more effective, including consideration of their size;
  - Explore ways to standardize staff support;
  - Consider training for board and commission members.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities. If you have any questions please contact my office at (619) 236-6633.

cc:

Lara Gates, Deputy Chief of Staff, Council President Georgette Gómez