




**CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT GEORGETTE GÓMEZ  
NINTH DISTRICT**

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

DATE: April 24, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer

FROM: Council President Georgette Gómez, Ninth Council District 

SUBJECT: **Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Budget and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding**

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In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic response, on April 15, 2020, the Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Budget was released for the City Council's consideration. Given the present crisis, as presented, the proposed budget calls for the reduction of \$61.2 million in expenditures including the reduction of 354.93 FTEs and a decrease in various core city services such as library and recreation center hours.

On April 22, 2020, a memo was released by Department of Finance Director and City Comptroller Matthew Vespi requesting further budget reduction proposals from all General Fund Mayoral departments, as well as certain non-general funds<sup>1</sup> that impact the General Fund, to be considered for the May Revise, which is set to be released on May 19, 2020. The same day, the City of San Diego received \$248 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to assist with costs in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

**It is in light of this additional request for further department budget reductions and the recent disbursement of the CARES Act funding, that I write this memo to urge you to carefully consider the use of the \$248 million to help maximize our reimbursement costs and help mitigate the current proposed budget reductions. Current costs incurred by the city as a result of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, providing housing for our most vulnerable residents and providing economic support to our small business sector. The use of the CARES Act funding should be prioritized to help relieve the proposed budget as much as possible and reduce the need for major cuts that in the long run could have a major impact to our city. Additionally, I would like to request for the Independent Budget**

<sup>1</sup> Non-general funds required to submit budget reduction proposals are: Energy Conservation Program Fund, Fleet Services Operating Fund, Information Technology Fund, OneSD Support Fund, Risk Management Administration Fund, Transient Occupancy Tax funded departments, and Wireless Communication Technology Fund

**Analyst to be engaged with all conversations related to the spending of the CARES Act funding in an effort to ensure that the City Council receives the most comprehensive analysis of the proposed budget.**

As you know, the City Council is about to embark on the budget review process, and we are being asked to consider the difficult decision of potential cuts to both city services and valuable city employee positions. Earlier this year, when I released my budget priorities for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, my priorities centered around investing in our most vulnerable communities by providing and enhancing key city services and prioritizing much needed infrastructure projects. It is no doubt that the COVID-19 crisis has created challenges for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 budget, however, my view regarding prioritization of our most vulnerable communities through city services and meeting infrastructure needs remains unchanged. We cannot afford to leave these communities behind.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this request. I look forward to working with your office to provide further feedback on the use of the CARES Act funding along with the review of the Fiscal Year 2021 proposed budget.

CC: Aimee Faucett, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor  
Kris Michell, Chief Operating Officer  
Matthew Vespi, Department of Finance Director and City Comptroller  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst  
Jessica Lawrence, Director of Policy & Council Affairs, Office of the Mayor  
Ally Berenter, Program Manager, Department of Government Affairs

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