



# Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry Council District 1



## THE BRY BULLETIN

August 2019

### Calling for a Moratorium on Electric Scooters in San Diego

San Diegans deserve a safe, unobstructed and accessible public right of way. Electric scooters have posed challenge after challenge on our City sidewalks, boardwalks, and pedestrian walking areas. Last year, I was open to working with scooter companies to provide a new affordable transit option as I hosted a Dockless Vehicle Working Group. As time progressed, we have witnessed the situation worsen.

In May, the City Council approved a permitting and regulatory program that went into effect on July 1. We believed these rules could help reestablish order on our sidewalks. Instead, we are left with companies willfully ignoring staging restrictions and geofencing requirements. Emergency rooms and urgent care centers are filling up with severe injuries. City resources are being wasted to collect and store inappropriately parked devices, and we don't even know if the fines cover our costs. In addition, private companies are picking up scooters left on private property. Thousands are piling up in at least one scooter graveyard, posing a long-term environmental hazard. Enough is enough – scooter companies have had their opportunity.

I am now calling for a moratorium on electric scooters in San Diego until we demonstrate that we can develop a fiscally responsible, well-thought out plan that ensures public and environmental safety.

### Recent emails to the Council Offices:

Dear Elected Officials,  
Lime and Bird are still staging more than 4 by 40ft.  
Will this be enforced? Neighbors and I keep putting on Get it done but it is all the time. What should we do?

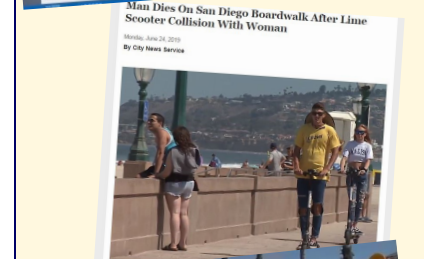
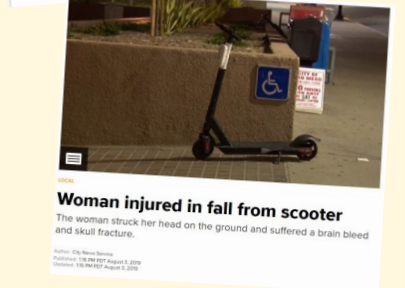
Thank you,  
Sarah

Hello,  
Lyft is still staging on each court along the Boardwalk, albeit with only the front wheels actually "on the Boardwalk" (they're making a mockery of the rules). The big three scooter companies are cheating on the geofencing to gain a competitive edge on the others. Each is creeping their speeds up a little more each day. Wheels are hitting 15 mph on the Boardwalk again. Bird and Lime are staging anywhere they please, and in whatever quantities they wish; I invite you to visit after business hours any evening. They are taking advantage of the lack of enforcement, especially after 6 PM, when the kids come out to play...

-Paul

Enough is enough! If I can't walk my dog on the boardwalk why can any moron on a scooter or motorized bike be allowed? The "motorists" are a danger to people walking on all our sidewalks! We definitely need a moratorium on scooters and motorized bikes!

-Christine



## We are Losing Crucial Housing Units

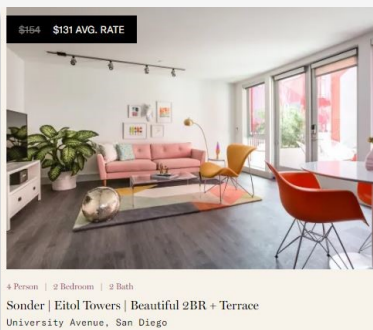
### Stealth Airbnbs with Global Reach

San Diego is being inundated by a new wave of short-term vacation rentals as building owners are renting out apartments as short-term vacation rentals.

This is in addition to the up to 16,000 single-family homes in San Diego that our City Auditor estimates are currently being used as short-term vacation rentals. So here we are, significantly reducing our housing stock and artificially inflating rents for San Diegans, in the midst of a historic housing crisis.

Our City Attorney has declared short-term vacation rentals in residential zones illegal according to a memo dated March 15, 2017.

It is time to enforce those laws.



This is more than a beach community issue. On a recent day on the Sonder.com website, a two-bedroom apartment at The Millennium in Mission Valley was listed for \$395 per night for the first weekend in August. At the Louisiana in North Park, apartments were listed between \$208 and \$274. Sonder's competitors include Domio, Stay Alfred and Barsala.

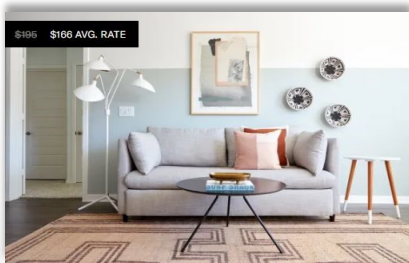
According to Techcrunch, Sonder.com has raised over \$400 million in funding with a valuation of over \$1 billion. They have thousands of units available all over North America and Europe. The investors aim

to be the next Hilton of such rentals.

These new mega-versions of short-term vacation rentals can more easily avoid notice, governance, and regulations while operating outside the existing law. They are also cheaper than comparable hotel rooms. They take over space in existing condos and apartments where it can be more difficult to identify than in a single-family home.

These buildings have received permits to operate as living units for San Diegans, not as hotel rooms for tourists.

How widespread is this? We don't know.



The neighborhoods already hijacked by Sonder rentals include La Jolla, North Park, Little Italy, downtown, and Mission Valley.

Let's put this in perspective.

In 2018, the City of San Diego issued just under 10,000 building permits for new housing units. We are taking steps to reduce fees, streamline permitting, and allow for more density around transit.

Housing experts say if we build more units, prices will come down or at least stabilize. But turning many more multi-family units into short-term rentals at premium prices may artificially inflate prices on all other units. In addition, our lack of enforcement means that investors will continue to snap up both single-family homes and condominiums and turn them into mini-hotels. We are simply playing a game of whack-a-mole.

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## Team BB In the community!

I took a fascinating tour of Takeda and learned about the ground-breaking research they are working on. I love that the company hires 40 local college students as paid interns. Full #STEAM ahead!



My staff and I had a lot of fun walking in the Pride Parade. It's truly a beautiful day in San Diego to see so many different groups honoring the diversity that makes our city so special.



I visited Pacific Tugboat Service with the Maritime Alliance and learned more about our innovative BlueTech Cluster in San Diego.



## A Brief Break with Barbara

1. What is a good book/article that you have read lately?

I would highly recommend "The 1619 Project" in *The New York Times*. It's an incredibly powerful.

### The 1619 Project

**The 1619 Project is a major initiative from The New York Times observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are.**

2. Do you have any pet peeves?

A pet peeve that I have is people who talk too much.

3. What's something your brain tries to make you do and you have to will yourself not to do it?

My brain wants me to eat chocolate and apple pie.

*Continued from page 2*



We have tried to be reasonable. Last year, I led the effort to pass legislation allowing unlimited home sharing in a primary residence and permitting residents to rent out their primary residence up to 180 days a year on a short-term basis (less than 30

days at a time). It wasn't enough for Airbnb and other vacation rental platforms. They spent a fortune and made misleading claims to collect referendum signatures, and we were forced to rescind our ordinance.

The City of San Diego Voting Results...		
COLE	✓	YES
BRY	✓	YES
ZAPP	✓	YES
WARD	✓	YES
KERSEY	✓	YES
CATE	X	NO
SHERMAN	X	NO
ALVAREZ	X	NO
GOMEZ	✓	YES
6:32	July 16, 2018	

I am not attacking home sharing—the ability to rent out a room in your primary residence if you are on-site to supervise.

At a time that we have a housing crisis, more and more precious units are becoming short-term vacation rentals. This unfortunate trend will continue until we act. Rents will continue to soar. Our infrastructure is already overwhelmed.

I urge the Mayor and the City Attorney to enforce the law. Now.


*Originally published in the Times of San Diego on July 22, 2019.*

## Getting it Done in District One!

## La Jolla:



I met with Zoe Kleinbulb, a La Jolla resident, who was concerned with speeding and the lack of a safe crosswalk to get across La Jolla Boulevard to take her children to school and to visit the park. My office connected Zoe with traffic engineers who came up with a solution to install a pedestrian-activated rapid response flashing beacon, restripe and narrow the travel lanes, and add a pedestrian refuge island.

 This design was approved by both the La Jolla Traffic and Transportation Board and the La Jolla Community Planning Association. Thank you Zoe, the community, and City of San Diego staff for addressing this public safety concern.

## Del Mar Heights:



## Before

Thank you to a Del Mar Heights constituent who reported graffiti in the Del Mar Terraces. He contacted my office and sent pictures of the graffiti and the locations. With his help, we were able to report these issues to City staff via the Get It Done service, and the graffiti was removed. Get It Done is a great way for constituents to directly report issues in their communities and can be accessed through the Get It Done webpage or the app. We are always happy to assist constituents in using this service and to submit Get It Done requests on behalf of constituents if that method is preferred. Please call my office



After

with any questions.

## University City:

I enjoyed fascinating and fun events out and about in University City this past month. I watched multicultural celebrations during UC's 4th of July Celebration in Standley Park, I learned about new technologies at a drone workshop at the UC South Branch Library, and I spent time with old and new friends during National Night Out.



I have some bittersweet news that affects University City. My UC Community Representative, Bridger Langfur, will be attending graduate school at UCSD in the fall and will leave our Council office in August. We are proud of Bridger as he takes the next step in his career. His replacement will be our veteran Community Representative, Justine Murray, who can be reached at [JRMurray@sandiego.gov](mailto:JRMurray@sandiego.gov). She is a graduate of UCSD and has been the community representative for Torrey Pines-Del Mar Heights.

### Carmel Valley:

In response to the community and CPPT Bry's request, the County has installed a No Right Turn between 7-8 a.m., Monday through Friday on Rancho Santa Fe Farms Road at Cypress Meadows Trail. Traffic from northern communities cuts through the neighborhoods running along Carmel Valley Road to avoid the morning congestion on that street. Once the Village Center Loop Road is completed, connecting to Carmel Valley Road on both ends, the congestion will be alleviated. Until then, simple measures like this sign protect the safety and quality of life for residents in Watermark, Olvera and Almeria.

