Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry Council District 1

THE BRY BULLETIN

May 2019

Long Overdue Scooter Regulations



The City Council finally approved regulations on electric scooters which have become a public safety issue. Since public safety is the number one responsibility of local government, our community expects us to pass responsible regulations. Last year, at a budget committee hearing, my staff presented an in-depth overview of what other cities were doing when dockless mobility vehicles first arrived in their jurisdictions. These cities were much more proactive than the City of San Diego. After that committee hearing, I led a working group alongside Council President Gomez. We met with present and future operators, and different advocacy stakeholders including mo-

bility, active transportation and disabled advocates. Most importantly, we learned a lot from bringing everyone to the table.

I share the frustrations of residents. It should not have taken us a year to pass an ordinance—an ordinance that still needs work.

At the Council hearing, I reminded my colleagues that last summer, I had supported an emergency ban of

electric scooters on our local boardwalks. Since then, the situation has gotten even more chaotic and unsafe. I remained committed to a ban so I asked for the motion to include a scooter ban on Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and La Jolla boardwalks. We were informed by the City Attorney that a boardwalk ban had not been noticed and that we must bring that request back at a different time. Committee Chair Kersey (who had also supported a boardwalk ban last year) committed to having this item heard at the Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It is my



hope that a boardwalk ban will be heard at the full City Council before the summer months when our boardwalks experience the highest pedestrian traffic.

In the meantime, we asked that the boardwalks be included on the 3 mph geofencing list. The City Attorney informed us that Chapter 6 of the code has a 8 mph speed limit on the boardwalks which we could not amend at the hearing. It is my hope that this amendment will be included in the final ordinance.

These regulations are an overdue step in the right direction. It was, however, only the first step. Please know that I remain committed to dockless mobility regulations that are enforceable, equitable, and address the myriad of safety concerns that our residents have experienced.

The City's Budget Hearings Will Determine Our Priorities



During our budget deliberations, my guiding principles are transparency, equity and accountability. One of our city's most pressing issues is how we are addressing our unsheltered population in terms of total dollars being spent and the effectiveness of our spending. On the first day of budget hearings, I asked departments if they could quantify how much of their budget has been used to address issues related to our unsheltered population. City staff explained that one of the reasons that they could not quantify the dollar figure is because they don't differentiate between patrons and the unsheltered. I want

to thank City staff for treating all of our residents with dignity and respect.

I appreciated the comments from my colleagues, particularly about the increase in police overtime and if there's a better way of homeless outreach using trained social workers and other professionals. I asked the Mayor's Office about the cost per person, per month of housing a person in a bridge shelter. I am looking forward to getting that information which I will share once I receive it.

It is frustrating that the budget does not account for our total homeless spending in one place. What I've seen from my more than two years at City Hall is that we lack a comprehensive, data-driven homeless plan. This is why we continue to bounce from reactive decision to reactive decision.

Back to basics on crucial city services

On the second day of deliberations, we heard from several departments including Public Works, Public Utilities, Transportation & Storm Water and the City's Capital Improvement Program. We are competing with other municipalities and private sector employers for the most valued resource: Human Capital. We need to build the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) pipeline and grow our in-house expertise to provide proper



oversight and quality control over the expenditure of taxpayer dollars. Recruiting, retaining, and continuously training our workforce is the path to providing our residents with quality services.

I also asked for updates on several projects in the district including the widening of El Camino Real (between El Camino Real and Via De la Via), the SR 56 expansion between Interstate 5 and Carmel Valley Road, and the North Torrey Pines Road Bridge. My staff will be providing these updates at community meetings and through Nextdoor. Please contact my office if you would like to discuss the status of these projects.

It was also clear that we need to go back to the basics. Tree trimming, bike infrastructure, and storm channel management are not areas in the budget where our residents expect us to make reductions. My Council colleagues and I committed to doing what we can to reinstate these necessary services.

City needs long-term plans for employees and real estate

An important takeaway from our third day of budget hearings was the city's lack of a long-term real estate strategy. We heard the details of a building, purchased by the city in 2017, that won't be ready for its full intended use as a maintenance facility until 2022. We also heard that the cost of renovations is between \$6.5-\$17 million—quite a wide range.

I will be publishing a special budget newsletter edition at the conclusion of budget deliberations.

Team BB in the community!

I sat down with some residents for this month's Brews with Bry in University City. I represent the most engaged residents!



My staff and I were a part of the SD Creek to Bay Cleanup along with countless volunteers who are committed to protecting and improving our environment.



Councilmember Campbell and I joined our staff for Denim Day to bring awareness to sexual violence. We presented the proclamation to the YWCA who provide domestic violence services.



A Brief Break with Barbara

 What is a good article that you have read lately? The New Yorker article about the devastating impact of Airbnb in Barcelona, Spain.

> THE AIRBNB INVASION OF BARCELONA In the tourist-clogged city, some locals see the service as a pestilence.

2. If you got stuck in an elevator and were forced to listen to only one song, what would it be?"I Am What I Am" from La Cage Aux Folles

3. What is a weird food combination that you really enjoy? I think my food tastes are fairly ordinary--my weakness is definitely pasta, bread and potatoes!

Meet One of Our Amazing Interns



Hello! My name is Kapri Walker, and I am one of the newest interns representing District 1. I'm currently a third-year undergraduate student at SDSU, majoring in Criminal Justice and minoring in Africana Studies and Sociology. Throughout my college career, I have become increasingly involved in my community and local level government. As a San Diego native, I am extremely grateful for such an incredible opportunity to

experience the ins and outs of our beautiful city!

Working in this office with Councilmember Bry has inspired me to fiercely

and unapologetically strive toward my goals. I believe in the issues that she advocates for and appreciate her journey that led her to Council. I have been fortunate to have the chance to work alongside such a strong staff. I've learned so much in such a short amount of time! I truly admire the passion and effort each of them puts in to caring for the communities that they serve.



I want to thank the District 1 staff, and the wonderful constituents for welcoming me so warmly into their community. I look forward to keeping up the hard work to improve our neighborhoods and our standard of living here in San Diego.

Training Our Veterans and our Youth in Transition

San Diego has the largest concentration of US military in the world. One out of every five jobs is connected to our military community. Yet many of those transitioning out of the military receive just four days to prepare for civilian life. All too often, this can lead to a downward spiral of depression, substance use and even suicide. Our veterans deserve better.



To combat the problem, veteran Hernán Luis y Prado formed Workshops for Warriors, a non-profit that delivers advanced manufacturing training to veterans and opportunity youth in transition. Students earn stackable, portable credentials that can lead to careers with starting salaries of \$60,000.

"There are 2.3 million well-paying jobs that go unfilled in America's advanced manufacturing

sectors each year – many in San Diego," said Luis y Prado. "The inability to fill these jobs not only erodes America's competitiveness, it pushes jobs overseas, creating a

prospective \$32 billion loss to the US economy over the next decade."



San Diego's Workshops for Warriors is rebuilding our advanced manufacturing base one veteran at a time. They also remind us to honor our veter-

ans not just on Memorial Day, but throughout the year for their countless contributions and sacrifices.

Contact Us

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