



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM  
SHERRI S. LIGHTNER**

*CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1*

## **News Release**

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### **City Council Unanimously Approves Committee Restructuring Plan** *Lightner commends committee members for overseeing nine-month effort*

SAN DIEGO – Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner today announced that the City Council unanimously approved a plan to overhaul the standing council committees that help craft local laws and shape public policy.

“This restructuring makes our council committees more innovative, effective and better reflects the city’s major goals and top priorities,” said Lightner.

The revamped structure will take effect in December and includes seven standing committees: Budget and Government Efficiency, Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations, Environment, Infrastructure, Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods, Smart Growth and Land Use, and Audit.

As chair of the Rules and Economic Development Committee, Lightner was appointed late last year by City Council President Todd Gloria (now Interim Mayor) to spearhead the effort to “modernize” the council committees and bring them into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

“They hadn’t been reviewed for decades and there’s an urgent need now, more than ever before, to be strategically focused on our policy priorities so that we can better serve our citizens,” said Lightner.

According to the newly adopted ordinance, some of the duties assigned to each committee include:

- Budget and Government Efficiency: the city's annual budget, fees, information technology, purchasing and contracting, managed competition, equal opportunity contracting, the San Diego City Employees Retirement System, personnel, and the Tourism Marketing District;
- Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations: relations with the airport and Port of San Diego, citywide Economic Development, arts and culture, city permits and regulations, the San Diego Convention Center Corp., Civic San Diego, and living and prevailing wage issues;
- Environment: water and energy management, solid waste disposal and recycling, public utilities and climate mitigation;

- Infrastructure: the capital improvement program, along with its financing and streamlining;
- Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods: the San Diego police and fire departments, lifeguards, services to veterans, code enforcement, parks, recreation programs and Community Development Block Grants; and
- Smart Growth: planning and land use, affordable housing, transportation and public transit, community plan updates, and biking and walking programs.

According to Lightner, the Rules and Economic Development Committee also is continuing to address much-needed updates and revisions to key provisions in the City Charter, particularly those related to elections and recent changes to state laws.

“Probably one of the biggest and certainly one of the most involved issues to work on is the City Charter,” said Lightner. “There now appears to be heightened interest from city leaders and the general public for a complete review of the Charter.”

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*Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City. She also serves as chair of the Council’s Rules and Economic Development Committee, and is a member of the Budget and Land Use and Housing committees.*