



News from

## Council President Todd Gloria

City of San Diego

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Council President Gloria Announces Safety Upgrades in North Park** *Increased Lighting Aimed at Improving Safety After Recent Attacks*

SAN DIEGO (September 5, 2014) – Council President Todd Gloria today joined with the San Diego Police Department and community members at North Park Community Park to announce safety upgrades in North Park to combat recent attacks in the area over the past three months.

**“Keeping the community safe is my priority and the City’s priority. Lighting improvements in the core of North Park will help deter crime and help neighbors feel more secure,”** said Council President Gloria.

North Park Main Street and SDG&E sponsored a community walk during which volunteers canvassed street lighting near the intersection of 30<sup>th</sup> and University. It was determined from that effort that 23 streetlights were not functioning. Twenty of those have been fixed, two should be fixed soon, and one is pending a slightly more complicated issue.

The lights at the tennis courts at North Park Community Park will also remain on at night to brighten the vicinity. Further, in response to concerns from the Council President and the community, the city is converting the streetlights on Lincoln Avenue from Texas Street to I-805 to brighter LED bulbs. This project will include one new streetlight as well on Lincoln in the alley between Arizona and Texas. The potential for additional lighting along Idaho, Oregon and in the parallel alleys is also being considered.

The Council President has also initiated a conversation with the San Diego Unified School District to investigate ways to fund lighting and cameras on the ALBA School campus on the corner of Oregon and Lincoln. If purchased and installed, it may be possible for SDPD to potentially patch into those cameras to note any criminal activity.

Council President Gloria has participated in multiple community meetings related to the attacks and heard from many young women who fear walking around their neighborhood. Restoring a sense of security is necessary.

**“I will be contributing funds from my office budget on tools requested by the North Park Community Association’s Citizens Patrol, including flashlights and whistles, which they distribute throughout the neighborhood. Empowering the community and improving public safety is an appropriate use for my office funds,”** said Council President Gloria.

There have been six similar attacks in the North Park, City Heights, and Normal Heights communities in the last few months, all involving women walking alone in the evening hours, who were all attacked from behind. There have been no confirmed sexual assaults or stolen property, but the attacks have been violent and several of the women were knocked unconscious. There are one to two assailants and San Diego Police cannot confirm that these attacks are related at this time.

A description of the alleged attackers from June 17 depicts a light-skinned Latino, 23 or 24 years old, about 5’8” tall. He wore a black shirt, a black and white checked long-sleeved shirt and had braces. One of the victims described his companion as Latino, 28 to 29 years old, who spoke with a Spanish accent and wore a hooded sweatshirt. Anyone with information related to the attacks is encouraged to contact the San Diego Police Department (619-531-2000) or CrimeStoppers (888-580-8477).

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