



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego

NEWS RELEASE

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City of San Diego Protects Public Access and Open Meetings
City Council Passes Measure to Continue Compliance with the Brown Act

SAN DIEGO, CA (July 24, 2012) – The San Diego City Council today ensured ongoing public access to its proceedings by approving a resolution reaffirming its commitment to comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act. The measure passed unanimously. The resolution included strong language benefiting the public, as requested in a July 20, 2012 memo by Councilmembers Todd Gloria, Marti Emerald, and David Alvarez.

The added language guarantees the public will retain its right to hold the City accountable for complying with the provisions of the Brown Act suspended by the State.

“Public participation is the foundation of our democracy, and we are ensuring San Diegans will always have a voice at City Hall,” said Councilmember Gloria. **“The State may say we don’t need to include the public in our meetings, but the San Diego City Council values the people we represent.”**

The City Council’s action was in response to recent action by the State of California. Because of prolonged budget deficits, the State of California suspended some state-mandated local programs to save money. Some of the suspensions relieve local governments of the strict legal requirement to carry out previously mandated programs, including certain public noticing provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act. The Brown Act requires local government and advisory bodies to hold open and publicized meetings and allows members of the public to speak at the government meetings.

The City Council also directed the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to ensure the public will continue to have remedies for non-compliance with the Brown Act. The ordinance will be considered at a future meeting.

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