COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SIXTH DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: **October 28, 2020**

TO: **Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer**

FROM: **Councilmember Chris Cate**
Councilmember Jennifer Campbell

SUBJECT: **Opening One Clairemont Library**

We would like to acknowledge the work your office has done with the phased reopening of city services, including the safe, social distance opening of 12 libraries throughout the city. As the 2020-2021 school year continues for San Diego students through online learning, it is imperative that each student have access to all available resources to be as successful as possible during this time. The pandemic has highlighted the need to bridge the digital divide for all San Diegans. The library has always been the great equalizer for children and adults of all backgrounds, providing easy access to health information, learning resources, job searches, and for leisure.

The City of San Diego has taken great steps to reopen libraries in San Diego. However, these 12 libraries are not accessible to all San Diegans. Not having as many available resources greatly impacts the ability of children and adults to succeed, especially those from lower income families.

In addition, if the City of San Diego can effectively and safely reopen 12 libraries by having limited 25% capacity, requiring face coverings at all times, utilizing temperature checks, and practicing social distancing, then we should open up more libraries.

For all of these reasons, we are requesting that your office evaluate options to safely reopen at least one of the three City libraries in Clairemont: Clairemont Library, North Clairemont Library, or Balboa Library as soon as possible as this can be done safely by following all social distancing, health, and sanitation guidelines.

cc: Misty Jones, Director, Library Department
Jessica Lawrence, Director of Council Affairs, Office of the Mayor