



**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SIXTH DISTRICT**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 15, 2020

TO: Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer

FROM: Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6

**SUBJECT: Request to Expedite Permits for Park Use and Waive Fees for
Businesses, Non-Profits, and Faith-Based Organizations**

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, countless local businesses, non-profits, and faith-based organizations have had to deal with rapid changes to their business practices in order to adapt to the changing times. Every business has felt severe strain from the current health orders. Due to the amended order from the Governor and County of San Diego Public Health regulations, many businesses face eminent closure. Several of these establishments will not survive a second mandatory shutdown as a direct result.

Despite these regulations, numerous establishments have come up with creative solutions in order to support customers and the local economy. In response to this demand, the City of San Diego, in partnership with the County of San Diego, has successfully permitted both outdoor dining and retail to support these local businesses.

The City of San Diego is home to over 40,000 acres of park assets, with over 400 parks, 57 recreation centers, and 26 miles of shoreline. Our City Park and Recreation Department is committed to providing healthy, sustainable, and enriching environments for all. As the Chair of the City's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, I want to promote a spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, and creative solutions in light of the State Mandate and County Public Health Order and allow all businesses, non-profits, and faith-based organizations capable of continuing to operate safely outdoors in public parks, to open in San Diego.

As such, I request that Parks and Recreation staff evaluate the feasibility of allowing organizations to safely operate in public parks by allowing temporary outdoor permits for up to 60 days and waiving any associated permit fees that may apply.

cc: Andrew Field, Director, Parks and Recreation Department