

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020

City Council Takes Action to Support and Uplift Struggling San Diegans

*Council Spends \$5 million on Rental Assistance and Approves Purchase of
Hotels for Homes with Supportive Services*

SAN DIEGO – The City Council today unanimously approved using an additional \$5 million in funding from the federal CARES Act to provide relief for San Diego renters struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, the Council authorized the San Diego Housing Commission to purchase two hotels, which will be transformed permanently into 332 apartments with supportive services for unsheltered San Diegans.

“When it comes to supporting and uplifting vulnerable residents, today was a critically important day,” said Council President Georgette Gómez. “We created new homes for more than 400 of our neighbors who currently have no place to live and provided rental assistance to roughly 1,175 more families and individuals in danger of losing their homes as a result of the pandemic.”

The \$5 million for rent relief is part of nearly \$35 million in CARES Act funding allocated today toward homelessness solutions and community assistance. With this infusion, the City has now invested more than \$20 million in the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#), administered by the Housing Commission.

The two hotels that will be purchased are the Residence Inn Hotel Circle and the Residence Inn Kearny Mesa. The hotels will be purchased for a total of \$106.5 million, funding for which, along with funding for ongoing operations and services, will come from a mix of local, state, and federal sources. In a separate vote, Council approved funding for People Assisting the Homeless and Father Joe’s Villages to provide property management and case management for residents.

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Council President Gómez represents the Ninth Council District of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Alvarado Estates, City Heights, College Area, College View Estates, El Cerrito, Kensington, Mountain View, Mt. Hope, Rolando, Southcrest, and Talmadge. She chairs the City of San Diego Rules Committee and sits on the Metropolitan Transit System Board of Directors and on the SANDAG Board of Directors and Executive Board.