

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020

Council Committee to Take Action on Affordable Housing Preservation

Land Use and Housing Committee to Vote on Recommendations in Recently Released Landmark Study

SAN DIEGO – This afternoon, the City Council’s Land Use and Housing Committee will consider advancing several strategies aimed at preserving San Diego’s existing stock of affordable housing.

The strategies were included as recommendations in [Preserving Affordable Housing in the City of San Diego](#), a first-of-its-kind study released this year by the San Diego Housing Commission. The study, presented formally to the City Council on June 2, provided an inventory of existing affordable housing – both naturally occurring affordable housing and deed-restricted affordable housing – and recommended 10 broad strategies for preserving it.

“The City Council is wasting no time in advancing the kinds of critical policies that will make sure San Diego doesn’t lose more affordable housing,” said Council President Georgette Gómez. “I thank the San Diego Housing Commission for moving so quickly to bring forward plans to implement these ideas that will allow San Diego families to continue to be able to afford to live here.”

Council President Gómez called for a study of affordable housing in San Diego in a comprehensive Housing Action Plan that she released in 2017, identifying it as an integral piece of a larger housing strategy.

In its June 24 meeting, the Land Use and Housing Committee directed Housing Commission staff to focus first on three of the 10 recommendations in the study and return with detailed policy proposals to implement them:

- Redirect funds originally associated with the City’s Redevelopment Agency to fund preservation.
- Adopt a preservation ordinance to strengthen and expand the rights granted by state preservation notice law.
- Offer incentives to owners of unrestricted properties in exchange for affordability restrictions.

In addition to presenting those details, Housing Commission staff will ask the committee to consider two additional recommendations:

- Provide seed funding to create a public-private Affordable Housing Preservation Fund.
- Create an interagency preservation working group.

Council President Gómez encourages residents to participate in the committee meeting by calling in and registering their opinions.

Today’s meeting starts at 1 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only City staff and credentialed members of the press may attend in person. However, those wishing to participate can submit a comment through [this online form](#) or call in to the meeting and make a comment when the extension item is announced by committee staff.

The call-in number is 619-541-6310, and the access code is 877861, followed by #. [Here](#) are the full call-in instructions. All Council and committee meetings are broadcast on Channel 24 through Cox and Time-Warner cable systems and Channel 99 through AT&T. They are also [streamed online](#).

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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.