

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Council to Vote Wednesday on Eviction Moratorium to Protect At-Risk Residents and Businesses**

### *Relief Fund for Small Businesses Also on Agenda*

SAN DIEGO – City Council President Georgette Gómez has scheduled a special Council meeting for 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 25, to act on critical elements of her comprehensive package of legislation to help lessen the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on San Diego's most vulnerable residents and businesses.

First, the Council will vote on a temporary moratorium on evictions of residents who cannot pay rent, and businesses that cannot make their lease payments, due to financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. The emergency ordinance was prepared by the City Attorney at the direction of the City Council as part of their unanimous approval of a series of resolutions on March 17.

The eviction ordinance includes documentation requirements of tenants seeking relief, who would have up to six months after the effective date of the ordinance (March 25) to pay any unpaid rent. Landlords may seek payment of rent but may not evict tenants who qualify for relief. Landlords will not charge late fees.

As part of the action proposed, the Council will ask City staff to work with banks and lenders to halt foreclosures of properties whose owners are unable to make mortgage payments, and aggressively seek local, state, and federal economic aid packages to provide relief to landlords, which would benefit tenants.

Under the ordinance, the San Diego Housing Commission and its nonprofit affiliate Housing Development Partners are also prohibited from evicting tenants who reside in any of the 3,732 Commission-controlled affordable apartments.

In addition, the City's Economic Development Department will present to Council a proposal to establish a Small Business Relief Fund to support San Diego businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The relief fund would be created by repurposing nearly \$4 million in existing grant funding.

#### **Public participation in the meeting:**

Until further notice, City Council meetings will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of [California Executive Order 29-20](#), which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. Most, if not all, of the Council members will participate via teleconference.

No members public will be in attendance. However, alternatives to in-person attendance for viewing and participating in Council meetings will be provided. Members of the public may submit their comments on agenda items using this [public comment form](#). Attachments to comments may be sent it to [cityclerk@sandiego.gov](mailto:cityclerk@sandiego.gov); they will be distributed to the Council members. Comments submitted using the public comment form (which will be read into the record) are limited to 200 words.

The public may view the meetings on public television (within the City of San Diego only) on CityTV Channel 24 for Cox Communications and Time Warner Cable or Channel 99 for AT&T, or view the meetings online using live streaming at this [link](#).

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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.