

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

City Council Sends Ballot Measure on Police Practices Commission to Voters

San Diegans Can Strengthen Accountability and Transparency in November

SAN DIEGO – The City Council today voted unanimously to place an initiative on the Nov. 3 ballot that would create an independent Commission on Police Practices in San Diego.

“The community has been advocating for increased accountability and transparency in public safety for years,” said City Council President Georgette Gómez. “Building trust with those who serve and protect our communities must start with acknowledging the systemic racial inequalities that exist, and today’s action toward creating an independent commission is a huge step in the right direction.”

If passed by voters, the initiative will dissolve the existing Community Review Board on Police Practices and replace it with a commission that operates independently from the Mayor and the Police Department. The new investigatory body would have independent legal counsel and subpoena power to conduct proper investigations. Commissioners would be appointed by the City Council.

Also on Tuesday, the Council voted to place on the November ballot a measure that would change the way members of the San Diego Unified School District’s Board of Education are elected. Currently, in the primary election, voters in five sub-districts choose the top two candidates, who then go on to compete citywide in the general election. The proposed measure would make both the primary and the general elections district-only contests.

These are the first two measures the Council has placed on the November ballot ahead of the Aug. 7 deadline. The Council will vote on additional proposals throughout July and the first week in August.

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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.