



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 13, 2020

TO: Council President Georgette Gómez, Chair, Rules Committee

FROM: Councilmember Christopher Ward, Third Council District

SUBJECT: Rules Committee Priorities for 2020

In response to your request for priorities for the Rules Committee, I offer the following suggestions as we develop our work plan:

Elections and Ballot Measures: In 2017, the City Council approved amendments to Council Policy 000-21: *Submission of Ballot Proposals* to provide sufficient time for consideration of proposals. The committee must prioritize and have adequate time to fully engage in the process and actively participate in the vetting of potential ballot measures for the upcoming 2020 election. Topics that the Committee may wish to examine for potential policy or council-initiated ballot measure action include:

Housing Bond for the Construction of Affordable and Permanent Supportive Housing. The Rules Committee approved a Resolution of Necessity for such a Housing Bond in November 2019, and should finish the process to develop a Council-initiated ballot measure to approve the issuance of municipal bonds to finance the construction of thousands affordable and permanent supportive housing units in San Diego to be presented to voters at the November 2020 election.

Stormwater Infrastructure Funding. In the IBA's FY21-25 Five Year Outlook, Storm Water needs accounted for 38.7% of the general fund infrastructure shortfall. The recently updated Watershed Asset Management Plan projects that funding needs for storm water total \$3.1 billion through FY 2035. The committee should explore funding options to meet the city's need for this critical infrastructure.

Additional funding for pedestrian safety infrastructure. In recent years, cities such as San Francisco, New York, Seattle, Chicago, and Washington D.C. have instituted surcharges or congestion fees to help mitigate the community and infrastructure impacts of shared rides and commercial ride-share companies. The committee should examine the feasibility of a similar measure appropriate to San Diego which helps fund pedestrian safety infrastructure.

Divestment

The Committee should continue work to develop a Socially Responsible Investment Policy for the city to ensure our financial actions are aligned with our broader policy goals. In October 2019, the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee first discussed this issue, and the City Attorney's office is examining policy options for future consideration.

Customer Service, Open Government, and Public Outreach

- The committee should receive updates from the Performance and Analytics Department regarding progress towards the development of a 311 system as well as the performance, status and expansion opportunities of other customer service applications
- The committee should explore opportunities to increase the functionality of the City Council's constituent services database Intranet Quorum (IQ), or a competitor product. Opportunities exist to improve communication and timely resolutions to casework, increase public access, automate service status updates, and more.
- In an effort to provide a more efficient and transparent government, the committee should explore opportunities to make information about City operations and projects more readily available, up-to-date, and useful to members of the public. Specifically, resident notification for city projects affecting neighborhoods and businesses should be uniform across all departments including a city point-of-contact, project scope, duration, etc.

Boards and Commissions

The committee should continue the work initiated in previous years to clarify and streamline the appointment process for Boards and Commissions, and seek opportunities to better take advantage of qualified San Diegans who are interested in serving.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities. If you have any questions please contact my office at (619) 236-6633.

cc:

Lara Gates, Deputy Chief of Staff, Council President Georgette Gómez