THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER MONICA MONTGOMERY

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 28, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods

FROM: Councilmember Monica Montgomery, Chair, Committee on Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods

SUBJECT: 2019 Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee Priorities and Work Plan

---

As Chair the City Council's Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee it is my distinct honor to share my 2019 Work Plan for this crucial committee. I look forward to working closely with my fellow Councilmembers to enact meaningful change across the City, especially in our most vulnerable communities. I have outlined numerous priorities for this committee to consider in the upcoming year, and welcome continuous input and feedback from members of this committee in the months to come.

The following priority goals for 2019 include, but are not limited to the following:

Policing Reform and Accountability

Ensuring good relations between law enforcement and our underserved communities is a high priority. The City must provide sufficient resources and take the necessary steps to develop policies that will begin to rebuild the trust between our underserved communities and the San Diego Police Department (SDPD). We must be willing to work together and make our neighborhoods safe for both our residents and our officers. This year the committee will work with SDPD, stakeholders and community members to focus on the following areas as that first step in reforming the City's policing policies and accountability efforts:

- **Police Recruitment and Retention**
  It is important that law enforcement agencies reflect the cultural, racial and gender diversity of the communities they are employed to serve and protect. The City must focus its recruitment efforts on attracting a diverse force, and a force that respects the communities it serves. The Committee should receive an updated report on San Diego Police Department (SDPD) recruitment efforts and attrition rates. The Committee should also receive an update from Lorna Media to provide a progress report on marketing and recruitment efforts made. Lastly, SDPD should provide update of the

new hire and referral incentive programs approved to date to evaluate the effectiveness and explore expanding incentives to include programs such as low-cost housing loans and down payment assistance programs to encourage officers to live in the communities that they serve.

- **Community Oriented Policing**
  The Committee should receive an update from SDPD detailing their current community policing policies, strategies, and effectiveness. In addition, the Committee must take steps to further define "Community-Oriented Policing" and establish policies that achieve the true spirit of this approach. Each neighborhood has unique needs and there should be a collaborative process, that includes the community, in defining what public safety means and what role police play. Police should form partnerships broadly with community stakeholders and should develop solutions to public safety problems through collaborative problem-solving. It is imperative that we continue to invest resources to expand policing alternatives. We must also ensure that we have multi-lingual Police Officers/Police Service Officers who can serve individuals who do not speak English as their first language as this will assist in bridging the cultural divide that exists in some of our communities.

- **Use of Force Policies**
  To ensure that we are meeting our obligation to improve the quality of life and make our neighborhoods more livable and safe for our underserved communities, the committee will be reviewing the current policies regarding use of force. In addition, I will be asking the committee to review the continued use of the Carotid Restraint (Chokehold) by our officers and to consider joining jurisdictions across the nation that have elected to address this method of restraint.

- **Police Trainings, Metrics and Impacts**
  The Committee should receive an update from SDPD regarding SDPD trainings, metrics and impacts. The City must provide line officers and leaders with effective trainings and policies on de-escalation, multicultural awareness, and working with people experiencing mental health crises. These trainings and policies must be connected to metrics to measure their impact in the field to ensure the effectiveness and officer accountability. Also, there should be an effort to support the expansion of PERT teams across the City.

- **Continued Implementation and Monitoring of State Bills**
  I would like for the committee to continue to monitor the implementation of AB 953 (Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015), SB 1421 ("Right to Know"- Police Transparency), AB 748 (Public Access to Body Camera footage), AB 109 (Criminal justice realignment), AB 2504 (POST Training Course on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), Proposition 47 and Proposition 57. SDPD should bring forward progress reports to the committee and include information about any racial bias complaints and the outcomes of such complaints, as well as any action taken by SDPD to mitigate racial biases. This will allow for the Committee to see if progress is being made to deal with the disparities identified in the 2016 SDSU study, as well as address issues around bill implementation, which will ensure that officers are being held accountable for failure to comply with the law.

- **Traffic Stop Policies**
  As noted in the recent 2016 SDSU study, there is a need for the City to reform how traffic stops are used by SDPD. I would like the Committee to review the current traffic stop policies and work to develop a fair and impartial policy that promotes a uniform approach to stops and that will encourage officers to focus on public safety and not pretext stops.

- **Decriminalization of the homeless and those suffering from mental illness**
  Homelessness and mental health often go unaddressed in underserved communities and it is important that we look at ways to improve SDPD policies and procedures when interacting with individuals that are homeless as well as those who suffer from mental illness. We must ensure the safety of both the individual and the officer, as well as encourage SDPD to adopt policies that do not continue to criminalize our homeless population. The Committee should receive updates from SDPD regarding the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Serial Inebriate Program (SIP), and Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT).

- **Law Enforcement Acquisition of Surveillance Tools**
  This Committee should be made aware of any plans by SDPD, the Office of Homeland Security, or any other law enforcement agency to acquire and deploy tools that have surveillance capabilities in our communities. In addition, law enforcement agencies should be prepared to submit use policies, plans for data sharing, give an annual report on the impact of the tools, as well as receive feedback from members of the public.

Policy review and reform of the Community Review Board on Police Practices

The Committee will increase engagement with the Community Review Board on Police Practices (CRB) to seek proactive measures to review policy and reform the current structure of the CRB to further improve its effectiveness and officer accountability. The Commission's Executive Director should ensure that the Commission provides semiannual reports to the Committee and closely monitor the status of CRB's actions, recommendations and outcomes. As the Committee reviews the CRB, we should advocate for additional resources to ensure staffing levels are adequate to allow proper analysis of SDPD complaint data and outcomes.

Increased Engagement with the Citizens Advisory Board on Police/Community Police Relations

The Committee will increase engagement with the Citizens Advisory Board on Police/Community Relations to seek proactive measures to reform policy and improve SDPD and Community relations. The Commission's Executive Director should ensure that the Commission provides semiannual reports and annual written report to the Committee and closely monitor the City's implementation of recommendations and outcomes as they are developed and approved.

Increased Engagement with the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

The Committee will increase engagement with the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention and continue to seek proactive gang intervention strategies. The Commission's Executive Director should ensure the Commission provide quarterly progress updates to the Committee and report on implementation and outcomes of the goals set forth in the 2015-2020 Strategic Action Plan.

Review Current Marijuana Regulations

As recreational marijuana sales have recently begun in the City, the Committee should receive regular updates on Proposition 64 implementation, plans to address illegal advertising and delivery services, and permit applications for marijuana production facilities.

Monitoring of Fire-Rescue/Lifeguard Department and Citygate

The Committee should receive consistent updates on the Fire-Rescue/Lifeguard Department's staffing levels, diversity, attrition, recruitment and retention. In addition, the Committee will continue to monitor of the 2011 Fire Service Standard of Response Coverage Study (Citygate Report) for the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and Implementation of the Lifeguard Five-Year Plan.

Improving Neighborhood Code Compliance in Underserved Communities

Code compliance in underserved communities has historically fallen short in relation to residential properties as well as commercial storefronts that have become magnets for loitering and crime. Code Enforcement should provide periodic updates to the Committee so that we may review current policies and resources to assist in mitigating public safety concerns. Updates should include, but not be limited to, City's enforcement of ordinances and State/Federal laws relating to land use, zoning, housing, public nuisances, graffiti abatement, trash abatement and vegetation/fire hazard abatement in underserved communities.

Monitoring of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

SB107, approved in 2015, provides substantial reform of the redevelopment wind-down process and ensures that San Diego will properly receive CDBG repayment/recovery of nearly $240 million These funds are critical to ensuring that the City's most underdeveloped communities receive the proper investments that are needed to improve quality of life for residents. Therefore, the City should ensure that CDBG funds are reinvested in San Diego's economically disadvantaged communities in the form of housing, infrastructure investment, job creation and economic development. The Committee should receive regular updates from Economic Development Department.

Ensuring the sustainability and transition of the Family Justice Center (FJC)

Last year, the FJC transitioned from SDPD to the City Attorney's Office. The Committee should receive an update from the FJC regarding the transition and advocate for the necessary resources to ensure the FJC continues to provide the highest quality of service to victims of domestic violence.

Monitoring a Comprehensive Homelessness Strategic Plan, Data Management System, and other Homeless Services

The City has invested millions of dollars over the years to provide services for our homeless population. Services are vital to assist those who are without shelter. Therefore, it is imperative that the City take a comprehensive approach to this crisis. The City should consistently monitor progress on the regional plan from the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, as well as monitor homeless management data systems so that those in databases can receive wrap-around services in a timely manner and allow for coordination and collaboration from various agencies. Additionally, the Committee should receive an update on the ongoing efforts to address the Hepatitis A outbreak.

Restorative Justice and Reconciliation Opportunities

The Committee should prioritize funding and staffing resources for an expanded community court program that will emphasize opportunities for restorative justice programs. Restorative justice can begin repairing the harm that is caused from criminal behavior, and can lead to fundamental change in people, relationships, and communities. While the community court approach is an innovative way of handling low level misdemeanors and provides participants of the program the opportunity to complete community service as an alternative to serving time, emphasizing restorative justice practices can provide a moral component that focuses on repairing the harm caused by the crime and reducing future harm through crime prevention.

Youth Employment and Workforce Development

The city needs to analyze, develop and implement a means to monitor the progress and outcomes for opportunity youth. With a strong team, deep community connections, best-in class web-portal and IT solution, we have the foundation needed to dramatically expand the program in FY20 to rival youth employment programs in other large cities. We also recommend a proclamation for National Volunteers, Internships and Work Readiness Programs week to promote more awareness for the program. The committee should receive periodic updates regarding Connect2Careers, Hire A Youth Summer Programs, Tech Hire opening the door for students interested in the technology field, SDSU's Compact for Success program for guaranteed SDSU admission, UCSD's CREATE School and District Partnerships to maximize educational opportunities for both students and teachers, and Youth Opportunity Passes to ensure our youth has maximum access and support to reach their full potential.

Access to Fresh and Healthy Foods in Underserved Communities

This year the Committee will increase engagement and look to collaborate with City Staff, County of San Diego, community organizations, business owners and other interested stakeholders to introduce policy and/or the implementation of economic incentives to address areas classified as "food deserts" and "food swamps." Underserved Communities are often food deserts, where affordable and healthy food is difficult to obtain. The Committee should receive periodic updates on efforts attracting quality and responsible grocers, building public-private partnerships to support grocers who may provide healthy foods if given incentives, and advocating for additional wellness programs to improve the quality of life in our cities underserved communities.

In addition to the priorities noted above, the Committee should continue to receive periodic updates from staff regarding neighborhood parks, recreation programs, emergency medical services, special event permits, maintenance assessment districts, veteran services, senior services, volunteerism, and libraries.

I look forward to addressing these priorities and issues presented by myself and members of this Committee in the upcoming year. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Consultant, Chloe Triplett, at (619) 236-7038.

MM: ct

Cc: Honorable Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer
Honorable Councilmembers
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliot
Andrea Telvin, Independent Budget Analyst