Councilmember Marni von Wilpert

City of San Diego • District 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11th, 2021

TO: Council President Jennifer Campbell, Chair, Committee on Rules

FROM: Councilmember Marni von Wilpert

SUBJECT: Committee on Rules Priorities for 2021

Thank you to Council President Campbell for the opportunity to share my priorities for the development of the 2021 Rules Committee work plan. I am honored to serve on this incredibly important and impactful Committee. I look forward to working with my fellow Rules Committee Members and members of the public in the year ahead.

The challenges our City and residents have faced over the past year continue, and therefore we must work hard to create a more efficient, responsive, and transparent government. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise at an alarming rate, I renew my commitment to focusing and streamlining the City's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. To that end, we must also evaluate the ways we collect public input and disseminate information to our communities.

My priorities for the Rules Committee for 2021 include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Establish an Ad-Hoc Committee on City Council to Address COVID-19**
  - The City Council has lacked a central venue to discuss, track, and evaluate the City's COVID-19 policies and their effects on local communities and businesses. An Ad-Hoc COVID-19 response and recovery committee would allow us to focus our policy discussions, including small business and tenant relief, planning for our essential workers, and ensuring an equitable distribution of relief funds and services.
  - Having a dedicated Ad Hoc committee will also create an opportunity to build our regional partnerships with the County and other stakeholders as necessary to guide the city as we continue our response to the pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to, coordination on vaccine distribution and regional recovery efforts.
  - A committee such as this will be essential to receive and track public input as we move to a post-pandemic recovery. The entire City of San Diego is counting on us to work towards making things better for San Diego families. My office is ready and willing to support this endeavor.

- **Improve Public Access to City Services**
    - The Rules Committee should continue to receive reports from the Performance and Analytics Department as it further expands the usage of the Get It Done application. The Get It Done application has revolutionized the way residents report issues and the City delivers services, but more work needs to be done. The Rules Committee should hold discussions with the Performance and Analytics Department, perhaps quarterly, to improve and enhance the application to provide better communications and customer service to our residents.
    - Improving interdepartmental communication at the City is key to providing more efficient and better services to our residents. Interdepartmental communication has greatly improved in the past decade, but there are still opportunities for staff to explore that would reduce redundancies and save tax-payer dollars. The Rules Committee should receive updates regarding departmental information sharing.

- **Evaluate City Boards and Commissions**
    - The Rules Committee should continue to review our current Boards and Commissions to ensure they are active and that vacancies are filled. These advisory groups are key opportunities for the public to provide additional input and as such, special attention should be given to ensuring these groups reflect the city's goal of greater representation of the diverse community that comprises the City of San Diego.
    - The Committee should work closely with the Mayor's office to ensure Boards and Commissions' areas of responsibility and nomination processes are still relevant and/or if reorganization would better serve the City.

- **Review New Online Permit Application Process Implemented by Development Services Department (DSD)**

    - Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has been forced to make significant changes to ensure public access to city services. DSD quickly adapted their permitting services to accelerate online access. The Rules Committee should receive an update from DSD on the current online service offerings, including OpenDSD, and discuss the next steps to improving resident and business accessibility.

CC: Liezl Gloria, Committee Consultant, Committee on Rules

Joshua Coyne, Office of Council President Jennifer Campbell