



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER RAUL A. CAMPILLO
SEVENTH DISTRICT**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 6, 2021

TO: Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe, Chair, Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods

FROM: Councilmember Raul A. Campillo, Vice Chair, Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods *RAC*

SUBJECT: Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods 2021 Priorities

Thank you for seeking my input on the 2021 priorities for the Committee on Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods (“PS&LN”). I’m honored to serve as your Vice Chair, and I look forward to addressing the public safety and livable neighborhood needs of San Diego while ensuring every neighborhood in District 7 receives equitable resources. In response to your memorandum requesting priorities for the PS&LN committee, I am including my priorities for committee discussion below.

Public Safety

POLICE

Support and Implement the Independent Commission on Police Practices (“CPP”)

The November 2020 election saw nearly 75% of San Diegans support the establishment of a CPP to conduct investigations and subpoena witnesses and documents related to complaints, misconduct, and/or deaths related to police contacts. In response, PS&LN should ensure the full funding of the CPP and examine the feasibility of fully-funding of an independent in-house legal counsel. This will ensure the CPP has proper funding while reducing billable attorney hours and increasing access to counsel by CPP members and staff. Given the broadening scope of the CPP from its predecessor, the Citizen’s Review Board, which included mediation of complaints, we anticipate that legal advice and services, including the need for responsiveness, will be needed much more than in the past. PS&LN should also ensure the CPP has proper funding to account for technical issues such as storage space, cloud servers, and IT operations for CPP members to successfully access, view, safeguard, and interpret associated data.

Reduction of Social Service Contacts Conducted by San Diego Police Officers Through the Expansion of the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (“PERT”)

At the core of the message the City hears from community groups pushing for reform is that individuals want fewer unnecessary contacts from police officers, particularly in ways that reflect outdated thinking about criminal justice. Homelessness, drug addiction, mental health episodes, and interactions with youth require proper training and precise monitoring so that the appropriate response and solution are applied every time. A specific example of where the City saw success was the addition of 20 additional clinicians to the PERT program. PS&LN should continue to receive updates from SDPD on the progress of the PERT program. Should the data continue to prove successful, PS&LN should advocate for the program’s expansion to ultimately reduce the number of social service contacts conducted by law enforcement. PS&LN should also receive an update from the San Diego Police Department on the triage protocol for how specific types of San Diego Police Staff are assigned to various community calls.

Reimagining the Funding of the San Diego Police Department (“SDPD”) in an Effort to Reprioritize “People-Centered Policing”

The City of San Diego has fewer sworn officers per capita than other cities, leading to expenditures of more overtime funding, which can be avoided by the investment in additional officers. The City must ensure these new officers have the means to live and thrive in San Diego, rather than moving to another law enforcement agency. In doing so, The City must provide the resources for SDPD to meet the state mandated statutory training goals. Research has shown that meaningful procedural justice training¹ does lead to a reduction in the use of force and complaints against officers². SDPD officers must receive effective conscious bias and de-escalation training that promotes discourse and equitable policing for all San Diegans. PS&LN should receive frequent updates on a viable strategy to stop harmful policing practices while simultaneously building legitimate connections with the community.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

San Diego Fire Department (“SDFD”) Wellness and Staffing Optimization

PS&LN should receive an update on the status, outcomes, and needs of the San Diego Fire Department’s wellness program. SDFD firefighters typically spend 48-72 hours on call and see increased rates of PTSD, depression, cancer, and other physical and mental illness compared to the general public. PS&LN should also ensure SDFD receives proper funding and resources to ensure that there are enough floating firetrucks to be readily available in all areas of the City to optimize equitable emergency response times for all San Diegans. In addition, PS&LN should request for an update regarding the City Gate Study and optimization of fire houses for delivery of service.

¹ Wolfe, S., Rojek, J., McLean, K., & Alpert, G. (2020). Social interaction training to reduce police use of force. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 687(1), 124-145.

² Wood, G., Tyler, T. R., & Papachristos, A. V. (2020). Procedural justice training reduces police use of force and complaints against officers. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(18), 9815-9821.

SDFD Diversity in Recruitment

PS&LN should receive an update after each recruitment cycle on the demographic makeup of SDFD. In addition, data must be provided on tangible steps being taken to diversify recruitment models and maximize retention. PS&LN should also receive an update on the Girls Empowerment Camp and associated metrics of recruitment.

Public Safety Training Facility Creation

In the next few years, San Diego will be the 8th largest city in the US, but it will not have a training facility for SDFD due to the progress of the Pure Water Project. PS&LN should explore the reimagining of Kearny Mesa Police Plaza for joint use between SDFD and SDPD as a multifaceted Public Safety Training center. PS&LN should receive frequent updates regarding the timeline for transition, necessary investments, and predicted maintenance needed for the joint use of the facility for SDPD and SDFD to train first responders in San Diego.

Fire Safety Education

PS&LN should receive an update from SDFD on current fire safety education measures and work with them to enhance education and outreach programs on fire safety and carbon monoxide detection to residents across the City. PS&LN should also work to enhance the current fire safety efforts in communities adjacent to open space districts by ensuring they receive proper education on fire abatement. Being educated on and taking the steps to prepare one's home for a potential fire increases the safety of everyone.

Brush Management and Abatement

Due to staffing levels and the vast acreage of open space in the City, SDFD only has ability to inspect each of these locations one (1) time every four (4) years. PS&LN should review the SDFD's process regarding annual inspections and adjust the plan as needed to ensure frequent maintenance and inspection. This will promote active maintenance of open spaces and locations prone to brush fires rather than taking reactive measures in response to a spark or fire.

First Responder Homebuyer Down-Payment Assistance Program Expansion

To improve retention and diversity in recruitment for various first responder departments, I request that in FY 2022 the program that currently serves officers in the SDPD to purchase a home and establish roots in their community be expanded to include all City of San Diego First Responders. PS&LN should be updated annually regarding the success metrics of this program and the feasibility of expanding the program to relevant City Departments.

CITY ATTORNEY

Supporting the City Attorney in Funding of the Gun Violence Restraining Order Program

PS&LN should receive updates from the City Attorney's Office on the efficacy and success of the program both locally and across the state. In 2019, the State of California provided \$250,000 to operate the program, but funds have now depleted. To avoid cuts to the operations of the City Attorney's Office, PS&LN should ensure the City Attorney's Gun Violence Restraining Order program is fully funded and has the resources needed to operate the program.

Restorative Justice

PS&LN should continue to advocate for an increased emphasis and usage of restorative justice measures via cross-organization collaboration. PS&LN should continue to receive frequent updates from the City Attorney's Office regarding their Community Justice Initiatives while providing tangible steps to fund and refine the program via possible partnerships with organizations that emphasize the dialogue and collaboration of citizens to create safer communities and just outcomes for the city at large.

Livable Neighborhoods

PARKS AND RECREATION

Park Equity

Like other departments, the Parks and Recreation Department is facing a tough budget year due to the fiscal impact of COVID-19. As a result, facilities will likely see a reduction in hours and services. PS&LN should ensure funding is available to the Parks and Recreation Department for increased equity for facility access across the City.

Establishment of Leash-Free Locations Across the City Of San Diego To Improve Equity of Service

PS&LN should identify current barriers to the development of off-leash dog parks to increase the equitable distribution of these parks across the City. There is a total of seventeen (17) of approved leash free locations in District 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9 while there are zero (0) in District 4, 7, and 8. To ensure equity of recreation facilities across the City, PS&LN should investigate and request a study of City-owned land that is not suitable for housing but may be feasible for leash-free locations.

EQUITABLE DELIVERY OF CITY SERVICES

Safe Syringe Exchange Program

Safe syringe exchange programs have been proven to be safe and effective programs to promote public health outcomes among those who inject drugs³. The City must enhance the current safe syringe program operated by Family Health Centers and receive frequent updates regarding the efficacy of the program within city limits. Needles used for opiates, methamphetamine, or other drug consumption can be found scattered across entrances of various City trails and parks, posing a clear risk to public health. In addition, 29% of arrested drug users in San Diego have used needles to inject drugs, and 36% of those individuals have also admitted to sharing needles. PS&LN should also investigate the protocol to work with other jurisdictions, such as the County, to improve public health and safety outcomes.

Surveillance Ordinance

PS&LN should ensure the approved Privacy Advisory Group is established in a swift and thoughtful manner. Following reports by various communities of concern being uniquely

³ Hochstatter, K. R., Hull, S. J., Sethi, A. K., Burns, M. E., Mundt, M. P., & Westergaard, R. P. (2020). Promoting Safe Injection Practices, Substance Use Reduction, Hepatitis C Testing, and Overdose Prevention Among Syringe Service Program Clients Using a Computer-Tailored Intervention: Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal of medical Internet research*, 22(9), e19703.

surveilled by this technology, this advisory group must also provide frequent updates to PS&LN on findings, results, and efficacy of the Smart Street-light program.

Traffic Calming

PS&LN should examine the current process to get an environmental impact or traffic study done in an effort to streamline the process for the installation of safety signs and signals. PS&LN should receive updates from relevant departments on the feasibility of adaptive signals being installed along major thoroughfares to optimize timing and flow of traffic. PS&LN should also receive updates on issues of transportation and stormwater regarding the streets where the highest rates of accidents and infractions occur and then further streamline the process of sign installation to allow for increased safety and a reduction of unnecessary stops conducted by law enforcement.

HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness and Housing Programming

The City's homelessness crisis is directly tied to its housing crisis. PS&LN should continue, along with the Committee on Land Use & Housing, to implement the City of San Diego Community Action Plan on Homelessness. PS&LN should also receive updates from relevant organizations and City departments to create intentional policy decisions to fund long-term housing solutions as well as a person-centered homeless outreach models such as rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing.

Safe Parking Lots

PS&LN should explore the repeal of the current Vehicle Habitation Ordinance on humanitarian grounds and must consider expanding the successful Safe Park Program in its place. The Safe Park Program continues to serve thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness across San Diego County daily. PS&LN should receive updates from the City's Real Estate Assets Department on potential locations of where the City can expand this program into, and that the work plan includes the development and implementation of two (2) additional safe parking lots. *Approximate Cost: \$1,000,000 for (2) Safe Parking Lots*

Additional Programs for PS&LN Review

- Lifeguard 5-year Plan Update
- Emergency Medical Services Update
- SDPD Communications and Dispatch Wait Times
- Emergency Command and Data Center Staffing and Dispatch Wait Times
- Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

cc: Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria
Honorable Councilmembers
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliott
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst