



CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER STEPHEN WHITBURN
THIRD DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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Councilmember Stephen Whitburn highlights 60% decrease in unsheltered homelessness Downtown

“The final end-of-year count for 2023 shows significantly fewer people experiencing unsheltered homelessness downtown than there were a year ago,” said Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, who represents Downtown. “In fact, unsheltered homelessness downtown has declined 60% just in the past 7 months. This decline corresponds with the introduction of major homelessness initiatives introduced last spring, including the opening of two safe sleeping sites. There are now 521 people staying at our safe sleeping sites who used to be living in places like our sidewalks. Residents are telling me they have seen a visible improvement downtown. That is good news, and we are clearly moving in the right direction. Now we need to build upon this progress and help the remaining folks on the streets into safer and healthier places.

I want to thank the Downtown San Diego Partnership for producing this monthly count and for all their efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness in Downtown San Diego.”

“Addressing the homelessness crisis with person-centered solutions and advocacy remains the top priority for the Downtown San Diego Partnership and our mission of advancing the economic prosperity and cultural vitality of our urban neighborhoods,” said Betsy Brennan, President & CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership. “2023 was a pivotal year for progress on addressing homelessness in Downtown, but we understand there is a lot left to do in 2024 and the years to come. We invite other to join us as we continue to explore new ways to support Downtown’s residents, businesses, and unhoused neighbors.”

EDITORS: [The Downtown San Diego Partnership’s](#) end-of-year count showed 846 people experiencing homelessness in Downtown San Diego; this figure represents a 60% decrease from the previous figure of 2,104 from May of 2023.

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