

# City of San Diego – Environmental Justice Element

Roundtable Meeting #5: “Review and Discussion of Existing  
Policies – Healthy Food Access | Safe and Healthy Homes”

Meeting Summary Report

Nov. 8, 2023

Prepared by:

City Planning Department



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## Roundtable Meeting #5

### Meeting Objectives and Agenda

- Share existing policies related to healthy food access and safe and healthy homes.
- Discuss solutions and interventions.
- Create the space for participants to share overarching themes that they have heard from community members at the various engagement events held to date.

Agenda	
Time	Section
2:05 – 2:10 PM	Updates
2:10 – 2:20 PM	Engagement Check-In
2:20 – 3:00 PM	Review and Discussion of Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthy Food Access</li><li>• Safe and Healthy Homes</li></ul>
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Closing and Next Steps

### Project Team Present at the Meeting

**Facilitator:** Christian Rodriguez, Senior Community Associate (Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI))

Consultant Project Team: KDI

- Jorge Cañes, Planning Coordinator | Martin Gil, Community Coordinator

City Planning Department Project Team

- Sameera Rao, Assistant Deputy Director | Paola Boylan, Senior Planner | Christian Barajas, Senior Planner | Christopher Carrillo, Associate Planner | Audrey Rains, Management Intern

Community-Based Organizations

- Kim Heinle, Bayside Community Center
- Matthew Pendergraft, Bikes del Pueblo
- Manny Rodriguez, City Heights CDC
- Juan Ochoa, Casa Familiar
- Christopher Olfato, Urban Collaborative

### Summary

#### Updates

Updates outlining changes to the project webpage were shared with participants, including:

- Calendar of EJ engagement events
- Event registration link
- EJ Case Studies Story Map

A friendly reminder of where to find engagement questions was also provided.

## Engagement Check-In

Activity 1 - Participants shared brief summaries of community engagement held since the previous Roundtable Meeting. All participants agreed it is helpful to have city representatives at events to support engagement activities.

## Review and Discussion of Policies

Activity 2 & 3 - Information gathered from previous outreach and engagement activities related to both healthy food access and safe and healthy homes were shared with the group to facilitate discussion. This included an overview of existing policies that can be built upon to strengthen policies around each topic. The presentation of materials was followed by discussion questions that aimed at gathering further insights from the group on each topic. Key themes that emerged from the discussion are summarized below.

### Healthy Food Access

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What have you heard from your communities about Healthy Food Access?
- 2) What obstacles or barriers hinder access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in the communities you serve?
- 3) What solutions or resources would enhance food access for these communities?

Healthy food access is reported as an important issue by all organizations. Participants expressed that addressing affordability, distance, and improving transportation options, as well as providing opportunities for more spaces to grow food can positively impact communities. The discussion focused on common reasons for emerging themes across events.

When discussing affordability, participants shared that oftentimes community members have to decide between affordability and healthy food options. In addition, while small local stores, such as mom-and-pop shops, can reduce the distance traveled, produce is often more expensive. At the same time, improving networks and conditions for walking, biking, and transit stops can expand options by making it easier to travel longer distances. Throughout the conversation, participants also expressed that community members enjoy gardening and growing their own food. As found in the [Outreach and Engagement Summary](#), there is support and demand for community gardens, cooperative grow spaces, and general urban agriculture.

### Safe and Healthy Homes

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are the key concerns or challenges that your community faces in accessing suitable housing?
- 2) What barriers are preventing the improvement of housing conditions in your community?

Opportunities to improve and maintain safe and healthy homes were discussed by participants. Affordability and limiting displacement were top priorities as more people are sharing homes to afford rent, and younger generations are delaying moving out due to a higher cost of living. It was expressed that this can lead to overcrowding, more cars, and limited parking. Support for programs incentivizing

housing and affordability, along with expanding the urban tree canopy was expressed. In addition, one commonly heard reason limiting safe and healthy homes is that community members do not feel comfortable speaking out about responsibilities landlords have neglected, such as maintenance and taking action in a timely manner. It was expressed that fear of retaliation and expensive moving costs can lead to public health issues in the home. Participants suggested one way of alleviating fears is to provide more education and build awareness around tenant rights, while better enforcing “no-fault” eviction policies.

**Closing and Next steps:**

The next roundtable will focus on overarching topics related to civic engagement, physical activity, and programs and improvements to address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

## **activity 1**

### **Engagement Check-in**

Share your engagement activity updates.

- How did they go?
- Was the turnout good?
- Any valuable comments from the community?
- Lessons learned or tips for others?

## Appendix A: Interactive Digital Whiteboard Activities



## Appendix A: Interactive Digital Whiteboard Activities

Bikes  
del  
Pueblo

- obelisk used  
at bike  
workshops,  
park cleanup  
- is a visual aid

discussion of  
lighting and  
safety, obelisk  
points to other  
topics as well

Urban  
Collaborative  
Project

tree  
planting  
events (pre  
obelisk)

Engaging  
youth



## Appendix A: Interactive Digital Whiteboard Activities

### activity 2

#### Healthy Food Access

##### Overview

- Increase access to **fresh fruits and vegetables**.
- Promote and support programs that improve access and availability of **affordable healthy food**.
- Incentivize **supermarkets in underserved areas** to improve access to fresh, high-quality groceries.
- Promote and support **farmer's markets, community gardens, and small brick-and-mortar markets** selling fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Increase access to **water fountains** in public areas.
- **Reduce single-use plastic packaging** for all food types.
- Incentivize net **zero waste** grocery stores.

Obelisk  
Tips

leaning  
against a  
wall works

magnets to  
close it - pop it  
up on a plastic  
container for  
height

## Appendix A: Interactive Digital Whiteboard Activities

### Roundtable discussion

What have you heard from your communities about Healthy Food Access?

What obstacles or barriers hinder access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in the communities you serve?

What solutions or resources would enhance food access for these communities?



City  
Heights  
CDC

Bayside  
Community  
Center

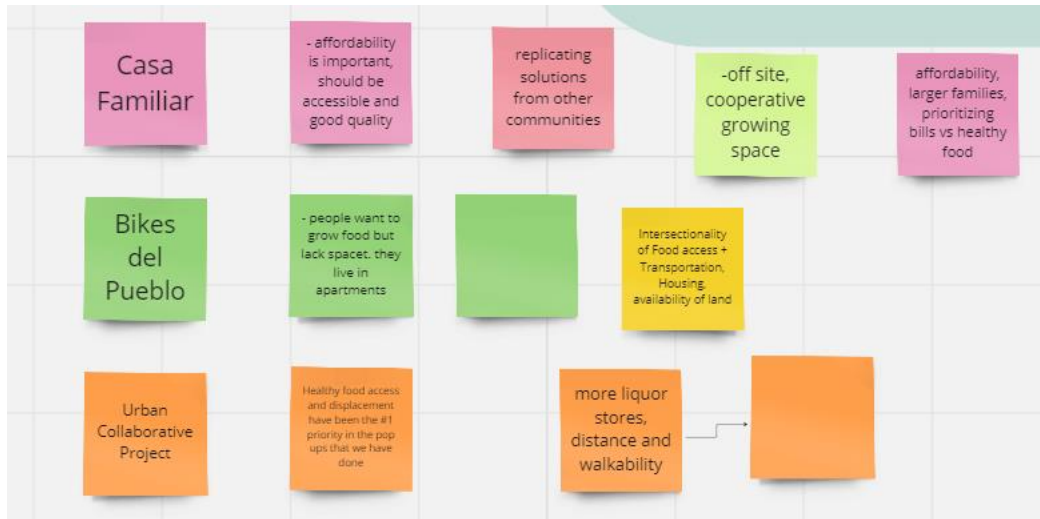
- healthy food  
access very  
important  
affordable food  
access and distance  
were equal

- need for space  
for growing  
- people can use  
private land

group discussion:  
- healthy and  
how far but not  
noted is  
affordability



## Appendix A: Interactive Digital Whiteboard Activities



## Appendix A: Interactive Digital Whiteboard Activities

### activity 3

#### Safe and Healthy Homes

##### Overview

- Facilitate the Construction of Quality Housing
- **Improve the Existing Housing Stock**
- Provide **New Affordable Housing**
- Enhance **Quality of Life**
- Exemplify **Sustainable Development & Growth**
- Publicize **Housing Needs and Resources**

##### Roundtable discussion

What are the key concerns or challenges that your community faces in accessing suitable housing?

What barriers are preventing the improvement of housing conditions in your community?



## Appendix A: Interactive Digital Whiteboard Activities

