



**For Immediate Release**

May 26, 2022

Contact: Moriah Gaynor

[mgaynor@san Diego.gov](mailto:mgaynor@san Diego.gov)

C: 619-510-6870

**Councilmember LaCava Advances Beach Fire Proposal; Providing Clarity and Improving Public Safety**

**San Diego** — On Thursday, May 26, the San Diego City Council Environment Committee unanimously approved Chair LaCava’s proposed amendments clarifying beach fire regulations. This action now moves to review by City staff and the City Attorney prior to docketing to the full City Council for adoption.

The Councilmember’s proposal confines beach fires to City-provided fire rings and portable propane-fueled devices, resolves conflicting language, improves public safety, and provides clarity for beachgoers and public safety officials alike.

The proposed amendments include:

- Clarifying permissible fire devices: “City-provided fire rings” and “portable propane-fueled devices;”
- Removing specification that beach fires are only allowed where a “City-provided fire ring” exists;
- Replacing “City-provided fire container(s)” with “City-provided fire ring(s);”
- Replacing “Public Beach” with “Beach Area;”
- Defining “propane-fueled device.”

These amendments apply only to “beach areas” which are defined as any beach or land and the waters abutting or adjacent thereto under the jurisdiction of the City’s Park and Recreation Department and does not apply to public parks.

**“I support safe, legal beach fires,”** said Councilmember LaCava, chair of the Environment Committee and the District 1 representative. **“These amendments are essential in keeping our public beaches safe while preserving the public’s access to the unique experience of beach fires.”**

**“This is an important item that will bring long-awaited clarity for all parties who are impacted by this issue,”** said Councilmember Jen Campbell, the District 2 representative.

**“Lifeguards routinely put out fires and remove hazardous debris from illegal beach fires that could injure beach patrons,”** said SD Fire-Rescue Marine Safety Captain, Maureen Hodges. **“Changing the municipal code could help prevent illegal beach fires and make the beaches safer for everyone who visits.”**

**“The new changes make it easier to understand and enforce,”** said SDPD Northern Division Captain, Scott Wahl. **“The propane option will be much cleaner, safer, and cause fewer problems. It’s up to the community now to decide.”**

*Councilmember Joe LaCava represents San Diego City Council District 1, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City.*

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