

From: "Councilmember Joe LaCava" <cd1news@sandiego.gov>
Subject: MAY I Share Some Good News?

LACAVA'S COLUMN

Your District 1 News Update



Friends,

June not only ushers in the beginning of warmer weather, longer days, and a newly reopened California, it also signifies the most important month in City Hall – the adoption of next year's budget.

In January, I issued my [Initial Budget Priorities Memo](#) outlining six critical spending areas amidst an uncertain economic future. Those areas included:

- Increased Assistance to Small Businesses and Renters;
- Protection of Core Services;
- Funding of a Public Power Feasibility Study and Business Plan;
- Protection of Current Funding Levels for City Staff and Programs;
- Implementation of Measure B to Establish the City's Commission on Police Practices;
- Re-Examination of City Operations and Culture.

I also stated that "we must lead with our values, ensuring a budget that prioritizes equity, high value services, and human capital."

While much has changed since January, my core budget principles have not. I stand firm in my belief that we must allocate funds to those services that our residents need.

You can read a complete copy of my Final Budget Priorities Memo [here](#).

Finally, I want to wish each of you a fun and safe Memorial Day weekend. Take care of yourself, enjoy your company, and exist in the moment. Revel in the joy of a world in which gatherings exist once again.

Yours truly,



Councilmember Joe LaCava
joelacava@sandiego.gov

COVID-19 Updates

California's Grand Re-Opening: June 15

Last month, Governor Newsom stipulated that California would fully reopen on June 15 if two criteria were met:

- Vaccine supply is sufficient for Californians 16 years and older who wish to be inoculated; and,
- Hospitalization rates are stable and low.

As of today, we are currently on track to meet these requirements.

What this means is that in less than three weeks, indoor capacity limits and social distancing requirements will be lifted statewide. However, events deemed “mega events,” or settings with more than 5,000 people indoors or more than 10,000 people outdoors, will need to adhere to some restrictions including masking.

To Mask, or Not to Mask, that is the Question

In new guidance released by the CDC earlier this month, fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

You are considered fully vaccinated either two weeks after your second dose 2 weeks (Pfizer or Moderna vaccines) or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.)

	Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
		Outdoor	
Safest		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		Indoor	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

News from City Hall

[City of San Diego Approves Old Vendor as New Gas and Electric Franchisee](#)

On Tuesday, May 25, the City Council voted 6 – 3 to approve San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E)'s proposed gas and electric franchise agreements. The Mayor successfully negotiated an accelerated payment of the SDG&E bid, including \$1.2 million in additional revenue in each of the next five fiscal years. The agreements also provide several conditions where the agreements could be terminated (aka off-ramps.) One off-ramp, for example, is the ability for City Council to terminate the agreements by a two-thirds vote at the ten-year mark.

Yet, given current circumstances, these provisions are off-ramps to nowhere. The City must develop viable alternatives if termination of the franchise is warranted. With the apparent lack of interest by private entities to take over the franchises, the most viable path at this time is municipalization. The first phase feasibility study has already been completed ([Electric and Gas Franchise Agreements Consultant Report](#), April 2020.) The next phases will determine the general condition of the facilities to be acquired, the costs of acquiring these facilities, and the process of separation from the remaining parts of SDG&E's system. This comprehensive analysis should include legal requirements and

timelines. It must also evaluate city-owned versus a new municipal entity, start-up/transition costs, and funding mechanisms.

Council discussed the importance of pre-funding a “Pro Rata Partial Refund, or Energy Independence Plan,” to ensure that if the City terminates the franchise, it has adequate reserves to cover the required refunds. Due to the late introduction of this matter, only seed money is proposed at this time.

[UC, San Diego Says Goodbye to Some Deed Restrictions on La Jolla Campus](#)

On May 18, City Council voted 7- 1 to remove land use restrictions on a 43 acre portion of UC San Diego’s (UCSD) East campus.

With the City joining the US Navy and the County of San Diego in lifting deed restrictions across university properties, UCSD will now be able to use public-private partnerships to finance and complete East Campus development that serve one or more public purposes. As part of the Council action UCSD will allocate certain tax revenues generated by the new uses to the City of San Diego.

UCSD is a regional partner. Providing the flexibility to fund projects through public private partnerships assures that the university will continue to deliver San Diegans education, health, and economic benefits.

[Temporary Outdoor Dining Lives to See Another Year](#)

On May 18, City Council voted 8-0 to extend previous urgency ordinances allowing for outdoor business until July 13, 2022. This will allow the City to develop a more robust and permanent process to permit them under the city’s regulations. An update to the regulations is already in progress via the City’s “[Spaces as Places](#)” plan.

While outdoor dining is one of the silver linings of COVID, it does come with drawbacks including sidewalk crowding, the loss of parking spaces, and encroachment on adjacent buildings and properties.

The challenge we have as a City is to let businesses know what the rules are, so they can make decisions as to how to invest their money in improved outdoor space.

Opportunities Around Town

[Teens - San Diego is Hiring!](#)

The City is actively hiring for a variety of positions including recreation leaders and sanitation drivers. For teens and young adults seeking employment, the Summer Youth Environmental and Recreation Corps Program is designed to help those in underrepresent communities looking to work this summer.

Check out immediate openings [here](#).

[San Diego Squared Offering Early Career STEM Opportunities](#)

The STEM field is not only essential to our local economy, it’s development is vital to our progress as a society. For youths interested in joining this rewarding, lucrative field, San

Diego Squared (SD2) provides access to education, mentorship, and resources to underrepresented high school students.

Select high school students are also welcome to apply to the fellowship program, which consists of a 5-week, rotation-based, STEM mentorship program for underrepresented high school juniors in San Diego County. The applications close on June 18, 2021 at 11:59pm PT and can be found [here](#).

Students interested in learning more, and individuals or organizations interested in investing, can learn more at <https://sd2.org/>.

Active Duty Military Families: Interested in Free Balboa Park Access?

The free Military Appreciation Pass (MAP) program is open to active duty families in San Diego County. Interested families may apply to receive the annual Balboa Park Explorer pass, which grants free general admission to 16 museums. The MAP program is a wonderful way for families new to the area to explore all that Balboa Park has to offer.

Active duty families and individuals interested in the program may email map@bpcp.org to be placed on the waiting list and to ask any questions.

Please note that the San Diego Zoo is not included and due to limited quantities, this program is open only to active duty families and individuals with a San Diego County mailing address who have not been a part of the MAP program previously. We thank you military families for your service!

Currently Operate a Short-Term Vacation Rental? Take This Survey!

Earlier this year, City Council passed a Short-Term Residential Occupancy (STRO) ordinance. As a part of these regulations, licenses will be required to operate a STRO in the City of San Diego beginning July 1, 2022. Licenses will be issued by lottery in a process yet to be determined.

If you operate a STRO, we invite you to complete the City's pre-registration survey. Participation in this survey does not guarantee a license; however, it will provide the STRO Program with information to assist in the development of administrative rules to implement and administer license registration, the lottery process, and ensure potential hosts receive timely notification of updates.

Complete the survey [here](#), and learn more [here](#).

FAQs

Will there be an opportunity to weigh in for folks who do not currently operate an STRO-but want to?

The purpose of the survey is to gather information about the STRO population to assist with the licensing processes and to obtain contact information that will allow the City to notify those interested in continuing operations or becoming first-time hosts when updates are made to the website.

Can I still participate in the survey if I do not have a TOT Certificate number?

Yes. If you do not have a certificate, enter "none."

Who should participate?

Anyone currently hosting or interested in becoming a host. The survey provides a small field for comments that may result in additional useful information to develop the program, including the drafting of the lottery process.

Is this indicative of grandfathering?

Taking the survey will not grandfather anyone nor give priority when licenses for whole-home STRO are issued in mid-2022. However, if you participate in the survey, you will be kept informed of updates as the City continues the work in developing the license program, application process, lottery, fees, etc.

District 1 Gets it Done!

This past month was a busy one for the policy team, but that didn't stop my community representatives from meeting with residents and working to improve your day-to-day District 1 lives. Here are two constituent 'wins' from our largest District 1 communities – Carmel Valley – this past month.

- ***Vegetation Trimming near Private Property*** – After a constituent alerted our office of overgrown pine trees encroaching their property, Ricky Flahive worked with Parks and Recreation to arrange a tree trimming, remedying the situation within a few days of filing the report.
- ***Raised Sidewalk Repair*** - Upon hearing of a raised sidewalk in need of repair on Calle Mar De Armonia and Vereda Mar De Corazon, Ricky worked with Streets Division to patch the problem. He is diligently following up with City staff to track a more permanent repair already in the queue.



Thank you to Ricky, my Carmel Valley rep, for working diligently on these requests, and to our residents for alerting us to their community experience. If you would like to report an issue in your community – do not hesitate to reach out to your community representative via email or phone or stop by their weekly office hours!

Community Representative Office Hours

If you haven't had a chance to say hello yet, stop by your community representative's Zoom "office hours" happening each week!

- Brian Elliott (belliott@san Diego.gov) will be hosting **Del Mar Heights office hours** from **10 – 11 a.m. on Wednesdays** ([link here](#))
- Kaitlyn Willoughby (kwilloughby@san Diego.gov) will be hosting **University City office hours** from **10 - 11 a.m. on Fridays** ([link here](#))

- Ricky Flahive (rflahive@sandiego.gov) will be hosting **Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, and Torrey Hills office hours** from **11 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Wednesdays** (link [here](#))
- Steve Hadley (srhadley@sandiego.gov) will be hosting **La Jolla office hours** from **1 – 2 p.m. on Mondays** (link [here](#))

Stay Connected with District 1

To stay up to date on all district news and updates, make sure to follow me on Twitter, ([@JoeLaCavaD1](#)) Facebook, ([@JoeLaCavaD1](#)) and Instagram ([@joelacava_d1](#)) and invite your neighbors to sign up [here](#) to receive email updates like this one!

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