

From: "Councilmember Joe LaCava" <cd1news@sandiego.gov>
Subject: A Running Start for 2021 in District 1



LACAVA'S COLUMN

Your District 1 News Update

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Apart from "How was your holiday?" the number one question I've been getting recently has been "So... what are you **actually** doing?" And honestly, it's a fair question.

Since taking office, my staff and I have hit the ground running. We meet each Mondays for about 90 minutes to review the docket, our calendars, and go around the Zoom "table" with top community issues. From there, my time is filled with meetings on meetings; meetings with officials, meetings with residents, meetings with organizations, meetings with staffers – you name it.

But in all seriousness, I've spent a large portion of my time these past few weeks listening and engaging with members of the community. As a new councilmember, it's very important for me to build on my personal knowledge of the district and get caught up on all issues from around the district and city to hear from those directly affected and involved. Just this Tuesday, I had the opportunity to chat with the Anti-Racism Coalition, Real Estate Assets Department and Mayoral staff, and the Community Budget Alliance all before lunch.

In addition to all the meetings, my staff and I have been busy working on deliverables reflecting the abundance of community input we've sought out and received. Since my last newsletter, my office has completed our Fiscal Year (FY) 22 budget priorities memo, submitted our Port Commissioners Nominations memo, crafted and delivered our Environment Committee priorities, and began creating our Land Use & Housing and Active Transportation & Infrastructure memos. All of these to be made public on the council and committee dockets as well as my [webpage](#). Not to mention the well over 100 constituent calls we've replied to, and nearly 20 social media posts we've published.

So I guess the short answer to "What have you actually been doing?" is "A little of this, a little of that, but a lot of everything."

As we move past the holiday season and my non-structured legislative recess time dissipates in lieu of scheduled council or committee meetings, I still look forward to continuing to meet and hear from San Diegans on what's important to them. In

fact, if you ever want to chat, please feel free to send an email to joelacava@sandiego.gov to get our conversation started.

Yours truly,



Councilmember Joe LaCava
joelacava@sandiego.gov

COVID-19 Updates

City

Mayor Gloria Calls for Enhanced COVID Enforcement

On December 30, Mayor Gloria signed an Executive Order calling for stronger enforcement of the local and state public health orders. This means that individuals who defy the public health orders will be fined up to \$1,000, including those who do not abide by the 10 p.m. - 5 a.m. nonessential curfew.

Parking enforcement was also suspended (Sunday parking rules) to encourage residents to adhere to the stay-at-home order.

The Mayor stated that this is an order of accountability, not a punishment. We must all do our part to stop the spread.

County

New Year, New Variant: The British COVID-19 Variant Has Arrived

As of January 5, the county has identified a total of 32 cases of the more contagious strain of COVID-19, which emerged in the United Kingdom and is known as B.1.1.7. These cases have been identified in San Diego, Chula Vista, La Mesa, and Lakeside and are among multiple age groups.

As a reminder, to help stop the spread of this variant as well as the original COVID-19 virus, make sure you are following proper social distancing protocols, wearing a mask, washing your hands regularly, and staying home as much as possible.

State

Apply NOW for the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program

The \$500 million, California COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant portal is officially open and accepting applications until January 13, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

This program is NOT first come, first serve and it will NOT close early, so make sure to submit your application and all supporting documents prior to the January 13 deadline. More information and the application portal can be accessed at <https://careliefgrant.com/> .

[Financial Recovery Plan on the State's Horizon](#)

On January 5, Governor Newsom previewed his administration's Equitable Recovery for California's Businesses and Jobs plan, the business and workforce recovery elements of his 2021-22 State Budget.

Notably, the Budget proposes an immediate action to approve an additional \$575 million for grants to California's small businesses. This is on top of the initial \$500 million allocated via the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant. If passed, it would bring the total for California's small businesses to more than \$1 billion.

Other initiatives included in his plan were:

- California Jobs Initiative
 - a \$777.5 million proposal, focusing on job creation and retention, regional development, and small businesses and climate innovation
- Workforce Development
 - one-time and ongoing investments totaling \$353 million to support California's workers
- Fee Waivers
 - \$70.6 million for fee waivers to individuals and businesses most impacted by the pandemic
- Deferred Maintenance
 - a \$300 million one-time General Fund for the most critical statewide deferred maintenance, including greening of state infrastructure
- Housing
 - \$500 million to create jobs and long-term housing development to unlock more than 7,500 new permanently affordable homes for Californians
- Zero-Emission Vehicles and Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure
 - an additional \$1.5 billion investment to accelerate California's progress toward our zero-emission goals while creating jobs

[School is \(Maybe\) Back](#)

On December 30, Governor Newsom released the State Safe Schools for All plan, California's framework to support schools to continue operating safely in-person and to expand the number of schools safely resuming in-person instruction.

California's Safe Schools for All framework is built on four pillars: funding to support safe reopening, safety and mitigation measures for classrooms, hands-on oversight & assistance for schools, and transparency and accountability for families and staff.

You can find more details on specific plans for each pillar [here](#), and information on the plan's rationale [here](#).

You can track daily COVID case numbers, deaths, tests, and ICU capacity [here!](#)

Federal

[Check your Bank Account – Second Stimulus on the Way](#)

The IRS began delivering the second round of Economic Impact Payments to residents (\$600) on December 30, 2020.

You can check the status of your payment via the "Get My Payment" tool [here](#).

News from City Hall

A Unanimous Vote on Extending SDG&E Franchise Fee and What that Means

On December 30, 2020, my council colleagues and I voted to extend SDG&E's existing franchise fee. While a unanimous vote on our end, it was anything but agreeable.

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) has us boxed in. They know this, and they are flexing their muscles as evidenced by their board voting earlier that week to support an extension that is a mere third of this council's prudent suggestion.

This may be strategic for a business to do; however, both the council and the public are keenly aware that SDG&E is at no loss or burden to extend the agreement. ***SDG&E's bottom line is not impacted, rather it is our residents who literally pay the price.***

Looking forward, with a new mayor and a new council in place, residents and policy makers have to evaluate whether SDG&E is a partner or an adversary.

As it stands, it is hard to fathom that this 4-½ month extension will generate new bidders. Given the actions of the city's current partner, SDG&E, we should not expect anything above and beyond what we've already seen, and ***I requested that the mayor's office prepare a business plan for public power as an alternative.***

Last week, I voted 'yes' only to support our mayor and residents by providing time to improve the past administration's process. This is in no way a sign of my support for the status quo or being strong-armed when our backs are against the wall.

As a member of the Environment Committee, I look forward to seeing this item in the near future. In the meantime, I have offered my office's resources to the mayor, including staff time and community relationships. This is with the hopes of promoting, conducting, and receiving robust community input and including the council as an active participant in the new process.

Out goes the Christmas Tree, in comes the Free Street Tree

Jump start your green 2021 resolutions with a free- street tree from the city. To achieve our our Climate Action Plan goals, we must increase our city's tree canopy, creating a more livable and sustainable community for all. You can learn more about requesting a free street tree [here](#).

Getting it Done in University City!

On New Year's Day, a resident sent me an email beginning with the subject line "Fire at UTC..." While usually this ends in a less happy tale, I was delighted to hear this resident rave about the services SDPD and SDFD (specifically University City's new Fire Station 50) provided during what ended up being a ***false alarm***.

Thank you to our brave men and women in uniform for your swift, courteous, and efficient response, and a special welcome to FS50, who is already proving to be an essential part of the District 1 community.



Coming soon to a Zoom near you...

While you'll hear from me again in two weeks, here's what's happening around District 1 and San Diego until then:

- 1/7 at 6 p.m.: La Jolla Community Planning Association (LJCPA) Trustees Meeting
- 1/12 at 9 a.m.: City Council
- 1/12 at 6 p.m.: Pacific Highlands Ranch (PHR) Recreation Advisory Group
- 1/12 at 6:30 p.m.: University City Planning Group (UCPG)
- 1/13 at 4:30: University City Community Association (UCCA)
- 1/13 at 6 p.m.: Mayor Gloria's Inaugural State of the City
- 1/18 all day: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (city offices closed)

Stay Connected with District 1

To stay up to date on all district news and updates, make sure you 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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