



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER RAUL A. CAMPILLO  
SEVENTH DISTRICT**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 16, 2025

**TO:** Councilmember Marni von Wilpert, Chair, Public Safety Committee

**FROM:** Councilmember Raul A. Campillo, Vice-Chair, Public Safety Committee RAC

**SUBJECT:** Public Safety Committee 2025 Priorities

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Thank you for seeking my input on the 2025 priorities for the Public Safety Committee. Considering the City of San Diego's significant budget deficit and limited revenue, my recommendations focus on ensuring that the Public Safety Committee receives timely updates on critical issues to maintain and enhance public safety. In response to your request, I am including my priorities for committee discussion below.

**POLICE**

Commission on Police Practices ("CPP")

The Public Safety Committee (the Committee) should receive semi annual reports from the Commission on Police Practices (CPP) on their operational needs and challenges to ensure transparency and effectiveness in their oversight role.

Update on Federal and State Enforcement Collaboration

Given that San Diego is part of a larger binational region, SDPD must collaborate with multiple law enforcement agencies to ensure efficiency in public safety initiatives. The committee should receive an update from SDPD regarding the progress of federal, state, and international task forces focused on combating child, human, and drug trafficking.

Neighborhood Policing Division Update

The Neighborhood Policing Division, which has been utilizing the Progressive Enforcement Model for homelessness outreach, should also provide an update to Committee on its impact and potential restructuring to ensure equitable and efficient responses.

SDPD Hate Incidents and Crime Update

The Committee should receive a presentation from SDPD, alongside its Annual Crime Statistics report, that includes a dedicated section focusing on hate incidents and crimes. This request is driven by the alarming 73% increase in reported hate crimes in 2023.<sup>1</sup> The presentation should detail the number and types of hate incidents and crimes reported, the steps SDPD is taking to encourage reporting and build trust with affected communities, and the progress of investigations, including any prosecutions. This focus will enhance transparency, ensure accountability, and reaffirm the City's commitment to addressing hate crimes and supporting impacted communities.

### Smart Streetlights

The committee should receive a presentation from SDPD on efforts to secure grants from federal, state, and regional sources to fund the purchase, installation, and operation of additional Smart Streetlights and Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs). This innovative technology has proven remarkably effective in enhancing public safety across San Diego, aiding in the recovery of millions in stolen property, the seizure of firearms, and assisting in resolving serious crimes, including kidnapping cases. By leveraging grant funding, the City can expand this cost-efficient program without significantly burdening the local budget, ensuring San Diegans continue to benefit from a safer, more secure community.

### SDPD Communications and Dispatch Wait Times

The Committee should receive an update from SDPD on triage protocols for assigning staff to community calls. Residents frequently question the number of officers deployed to vehicle stops and interactions with unhoused individuals. This review is especially critical during challenging budget years, as it highlights the importance of maximizing efficiency in officer deployment, reducing response times, and ensuring resources are directed where they are most needed. By improving the alignment of staffing with community needs, the City can better serve residents while managing limited resources effectively.

### Implementation and Impact of Proposition 36

The Committee should receive a presentation on the implementation of Proposition 36.<sup>2</sup> This presentation should provide updates on how SDPD is collaborating with the judicial system to identify eligible cases, ensure consistent application of the law, and monitor its impact on public safety. Additionally, we request insights on how the department is aligning resources and training to support this reform while maintaining community trust and accountability. Understanding the implementation process will help the Committee evaluate its effectiveness in balancing justice reform with safety outcomes for San Diegans.

### Narcotics Investigations Related to Unsheltered Populations

Evidence highly suggests that narcotics sales are being increased among the unsheltered population throughout the City of San Diego. Further, the various shelters operated by the City and our various contractors does not appear to be immune from this problem. SDPD should report on strategies to mitigate the proliferation of narcotics sales, particularly among unsheltered populations, and detail the necessary local, state, and federal resources to protect vulnerable communities.

## **FIRE-RESCUE**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/2023-crime-report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/2024-dle-19.pdf>

### Brush Management and Abatement

The Committee should receive an update from the Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) and the Parks and Recreation Department Open Space Division on the implementation of City Auditor recommendations to mitigate fire risks on City-owned lands. Recent devastating fires in Los Angeles have underscored the critical need for proactive emergency preparedness, especially in managing brush and other potential fire hazards. It is essential to ensure that our city is taking every measure to protect lives, homes, and infrastructure by addressing fire risks comprehensively. This update should also highlight progress in community outreach and preparedness initiatives to safeguard residents in high-risk areas.

### San Diego Fire Department Wellness Program

SDFD firefighters typically spend 48-72 hours on call and see increased rates of PTSD, depression, cancer, and other physical and mental illness compared to the public. The Committee should receive an update on the status, outcomes, and needs of the San Diego Fire Department's wellness program.

### Lifeguard Services

With 17 miles of coastline and nearly 4,600 acres of beach land across San Diego, the City of San Diego Lifeguards serve a vital role in keeping both residents and tourists safe. As such, the Committee should receive an update from Lifeguard personnel on current staffing levels. In addition, the committee must ensure the City of San Diego Lifeguards receive continued support to promote staff retention and morale. Therefore, the Committee should also receive an update from the City's Lifeguard Services Division and Teamsters Local 911 on core infrastructure needed to conduct their duties.

## **EFFORTS TO ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS**

### Appropriate Care Connection

The Committee should request updates from the City's Lifesaving Intervention For Treatment Program (LIFT), the Fire-Rescue Department's Resource Access Program (RAP), the San Diego Police Department's Neighborhood Policing Unit, the Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department (HSSD), and the City Attorney's Office. These updates should focus on the collaborative work being done to connect individuals to appropriate care while ensuring City law enforcement resources are utilized effectively and deployed during necessary times.

### Care Court and Senate Bill 43 Implementation

The Committee should receive a presentation from the City Attorney's Office on the City's role in implementing Care Court and Senate Bill 43. These initiatives are essential to addressing behavioral health needs within our community by streamlining access to critical services and establishing a more effective framework for treatment and care. The presentation should focus on the City's responsibilities in these efforts, strategies for strengthening collaboration with key stakeholders such as the County of San Diego, and opportunities for interdepartmental coordination.