



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 2025

TO: Councilmember Jennifer Campbell, Chair, Community & Neighborhood Services Committee

FROM: Councilmember Raul A. Campillo, Vice-Chair, Community & Neighborhood Services Committee
Raul A. Campillo

SUBJECT: 2025 Community & Neighborhood Services Committee Priorities

Thank you for seeking my input on the priorities for the 2025 Community & Neighborhood Services Committee (C&NS). I am honored to serve on this committee and look forward to addressing the diverse needs of San Diegans while ensuring every neighborhood in District 7 receives equitable resources. Given the projected nearly \$250 million budget shortfall, it is more important than ever to be intentional with the services the City of San Diego provides by prioritizing programs and initiatives that deliver the greatest impact to our communities.

In response to your memorandum requesting priorities for the C&NS Committee, I am including my recommendations for committee discussion below.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Open Space Brush Management

The recent fires in Los Angeles County underscore the growing wildfire threat that also impacts the San Diego region. Effective brush management in open spaces is now more crucial than ever. Clearing overgrown vegetation and maintaining defensible spaces are essential to protecting lives, homes, and infrastructure. By prioritizing strategic and environmentally sensitive brush clearance, especially in high-risk areas, City Crews can improve public safety and strengthen resilience against future wildfires.

Senior Services/Age Friendly San Diego

The Parks and Recreation Department led the Age Friendly San Diego initiative to improve services for older adults and residents of all ages in 2021. The Committee should receive an update on the plan's implementation across city departments. This update should include an assessment of progress, challenges, and any adjustments needed to ensure the plan's goals are met despite budget constraints.

LIBRARY

Library Hours and Services

The City of San Diego's Library Department budget constraints in the upcoming fiscal year threaten the ability to maintain consistent library hours, programming, and essential services. To ensure libraries can fully meet community needs, the C&NS Committee should receive updates from Library Department staff on efforts to sustain operating hours and maintaining of existing programming.

Library Master Plan

The committee should continue to receive updates from the Library Department regarding Phase 2 of the Library Master Plan, and its subsequent implementation plan, to ensure crucial updates and improvements are made to our library system. Libraries that have been identified by the 2016 FCA as "poor condition" like the San Carlos Library and the Linda Vista Library must be invested in to ensure equitable library access and resource opportunities are available for all San Diegans.

San Diego Library Tools

The SD Access 4 All initiative seeks to close the digital divide and expand technology access for San Diegans. However, without a consistent funding source, the feasibility of sustaining the program should be carefully explored to ensure progress in bridging the digital divide within the limits of the current budget.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Staffing

The Committee should receive regular updates on how the Code Enforcement division within the Development Services Department are ensuring inspectors remain active despite limited resources. These updates should focus on strategies to prioritize enforcement efforts, streamline processes, and maintain equitable and timely enforcement of city laws, even with staffing impacts and financial challenges.

CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Access to Affordable, Quality Childcare

San Diego needs more childcare opportunities for working families to enable parents to enter, re-enter, or remain in the workforce and to support children's development. The lack of affordable, quality childcare can affect parents' ability to enter, remain or re-enter the workforce, causing negative economic impacts to the individual families, employers, and the broader community. The committee should examine new and existing policies to further these opportunities for working families.