



Hello neighbor,

In the midst of our 5th week under “stay at home” orders, I know many of you are concerned about the future. I also know that we’ve lost too many San Diegans too soon due to COVID-19. My heart breaks for all of you who have said goodbye to loved ones from a distance.

In my entire career of practicing medicine, I’ve never seen a virus like this. The ability of this highly contagious novel coronavirus to be spread by people who show no symptoms has led to extraordinary precautions to protect San Diegans and to give our healthcare workers a chance to save more lives.

This pandemic has significantly impacted the financial health of our city as well. We’re facing an extraordinary challenge across the board right now and the [Mayor's proposed budget](#) reflects the grave impact COVID-19 has had on San Diego. We will have to make difficult decisions while protecting core services that are required to keep our city running. My staff and I will be advocating for the services and programs vital to our beach and bay communities. We've faced tough times before and come through it stronger than ever and we will do so again.

Here are some of the economic impacts we are facing:

- City revenues are estimated to shrink by \$250 million due to COVID-19.
- An estimated loss of \$109 million from sales tax and TOT revenue.
- Hiring and spending freeze, including \$61 million in budget reductions.
- A reduction in 354 Full-Time exempt positions.
- Capital Infrastructure Projects will be impacted.
- Essential services will be maintained including Police, Fire, Water, Trash, and Homelessness Services.

Despite these challenging circumstances, I look forward to working with my fellow councilmembers, the Mayor, IBA and city staff to finalize a budget that works for all San Diegans.

In all of this darkness, there are some encouraging rays of light. It's clear that California & San Diego, by implementing the first "stay at home" order in the nation, are doing their part to flatten the curve.

We also see communities coming together. Neighbors are interacting in ways our previously busy lives wouldn't allow. Whether it's the daily symphony of homemade instruments banging together to thank our healthcare workers, neighbors who had never spoken now checking in on each other, or San Diegans volunteering at record rates to help those in need, it's heartwarming to see everyone coming together.

Even our empty beaches and boardwalks, which may seem to some as a depressing reminder of our stay at home order, are actually a sign that we - as a community - recognize the importance of temporarily staying home to keep all of us safe. Every day, we show the rest of the country that we truly are "America's Finest City".

As we work to support families, workers, and businesses we are also focusing efforts on deploying emergency resources for those without a home. Emergency state funding has helped the city temporarily relocate existing bridge shelters to the Convention Center to comply with proper distancing guidelines. We are also collaborating with County Public Health officials to deploy portable hand washing stations and restrooms throughout the city. Law enforcement are doing everything they can to encourage individuals living on the street to seek available resources. Additionally, we are actively working with hotel owners to acquire distressed hotels to permanently house homeless San Diegans, an option that could last beyond the duration of this crisis.

Many efforts are being made at the city-level to help us all get through this and it cannot be done alone. I hope you strongly, strongly consider wearing a mask of your own whenever you leave your home to ensure that our grocery store workers, bank employees, pharmacists and others are protected as they provide a vital service to keep our city running - and thank you to all of you for what you do every day. If they wear a mask, you should too.

My staff is also here for you. [This link provides the contact information](#) for everyone on my team for you to get in touch with. From unemployment applications to evictions, homelessness outreach to businesses violating county health orders, we're here to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

I know this is tough. And it may seem like each day is simply blurring into the next. Yet I hope you can all take a moment to recognize the important work that YOU'RE doing by staying home, by helping to flatten the curve. We all play a role in getting us through the pandemic.

So thank you for what you're doing. Thank you for your patience, thank you for your understanding and one day soon we'll be on the other side of this, hugging our grandchildren, going to local restaurants and enjoying our beaches again.

Remember, we're all in this together.

[Finally, don't forget about the District 2 Master Directory!](#)

Sincerely,

Councilmember Jennifer Campbell