

May 29, 2012

Honorable Lorie Zapf  
Chairperson, Land Use & Housing Committee  
City of San Diego  
202 "C" Street  
San Diego, C 92101

RE: Citywide Utility Box Task Force

Dear Councilmember Zapf:

North Park Main Street would like to express our concern about the growing intrusion of poorly sited utility "boxes" in the public right-of-way. Whether generated by new business demand, an existing business' need for increased capacity, changing technology, or by the State or City utility pole undergrounding programs which result in relocated utility fixtures; these structures create significant problems for our business community and their customers. The "boxes", installed by utilities such as Cox Communication, AT&T, and SDG&E, create obstacles for pedestrians, attract unsightly graffiti, obstruct parking, signage and business access, and generally conflict with CDC goals to enhance our patron's shopping and dining experience, and thereby generate more local sales, jobs, and tax revenue.

Therefore, we would like to offer our support for the formation of a citywide task force for the development of guidelines to address utility box design, placement and maintenance, and to protect our public right-of-way. We believe such a task force should include representatives from relevant utility companies and city departments, and, importantly, from diverse commercial and residential interests.

Your support for the formation of the task force and its goal to create much needed utility box guidelines is of great importance to our business community.

Sincerely,

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