OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER MYRTLE COLE
FOURTH COUNCIL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2014

TO: Councilmember Marti Emerald

FROM: Councilmember Myrtle Cole, Fourth Council District Myrtle Cole

SUBJECT: 2014 Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee Priorities

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I am pleased to offer my priorities for the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee.

Continued oversight and implementation of the following:

- Implementation of the San Diego Police Department's Five-Year Plan.
- Police Department recruitment and retention of sworn officers and civilians; regular updates regarding staffing levels.
- Reinforce and/or improve upon existing San Diego Police Department policies related to the collection of racial data for traffic stops. Ensure that San Diego Police Officers adhere to the highest and most ethical standards and have the appropriate resources to do so.
- Track and support legislative "fixes" to AB 109 and efforts to maintain permanent, sufficient Public Safety Realignment funding for local governments to adequately manage the shifting of inmates and the early release of prisoners.
- Implementation of the 2011 Fire Service Standards of Response Coverage Deployment Study (Citygate Report) for the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department .
    - Additionally, the Committee should identify best practices to expedite the development and construction of new fire facilities that will improve emergency response times throughout San Diego (i.e. work with the Infrastructure Committee and the appropriate City Departments to develop an official position regarding a standardized fire station design so that the City may properly plan for financing and construction of new fire stations)
- Seek regular updates regarding the Fire-Rescue Department's staffing levels; including attrition, recruitment and retention.
- Adoption and implementation of the Lifeguard Five-Year Plan.

Increase engagement and policy development in the following areas:

- Increase the Committee's interaction with City Boards and Commissions to develop policies and programs that ensure safe and livable neighborhoods.

  - Engage the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention in an effort to seek new proactive gang violence intervention policies (i.e. Operation Ceasefire). Seek grant funding opportunities that will increase the Commission's community engagement and interaction with stakeholders.
  - Engage the Library Commission and School District to expand literacy and after-school youth and teen programming at branch libraries.
  - Engage the Park and Recreation Councils and Board and School District to maximize recreational programming and services. Ensure that community benefits are provided via our joint-use agreements and seek to expand those opportunities.
  - Engage experts (Environmental Services Department, Park and Recreation Department, Committee on the Environment) to explore the remediation and reuse of former landfills for recreational uses (i.e. District 4 is home to the South Chollas and Paradise Hills landfills. There is growing interest in the community to remediate the former landfills to expand recreational opportunities—soccer, baseball fields, etc.).
- Prioritize funding and staffing resources to enhance Community Oriented Policing and Neighborhood Watch efforts. Community Oriented Policing is a proven strategy aimed at achieving effective and efficient crime control, reducing fear of crime, improved quality of life, improved police services and police legitimacy, through a proactive reliance on the community.
- Prioritize funding and staff resources for a "Neighborhood Revitalization Day" Program. This is a program initiated by my office in 2013 in partnership with our various community councils in the Fourth District. The purpose of Neighborhood Revitalization Days is to coordinate City Departments and resources to immediately address neighborhood quality of life issues such as code violations, illegal dumping, street conditions, etc. (Departments involved include: Neighborhood Code Compliance, Police Department, Environmental Services, City Attorney's Office)
- Revisit Council Policy 200-18: Mid-Block Street Lighting Policy for Developed Areas
  - In conjunction with the Infrastructure Committee, the PS&LN Committee should revisit the Council Policy to ensure that public streets are well lit. Public street lighting is becoming more and more important to our quality of life. Street lighting facilitates safe operation of traffic, gives pedestrians a safer traveling environment, promotes night use of commercial shopping areas, and increases citizen perception of safety from crime. There is growing concern about inadequate lighting, particularly near transit stops, which are generally utilized by youths, seniors and the disabled; three social groups most reliant on public transportation and most vulnerable to criminal assaults. An updated Council Policy will guide the City's investment and prioritize any available resources to high-crime and/or high traveled areas.
- In conjunction with the County, School District, and other interested stakeholders, the PS&LN Committee should seek policy and/or the implementation of economic incentives to address areas classified as "food deserts". The Fourth District is a food desert, an area where affordable and healthy food is difficult to obtain. Our residents have no alternative but to utilize private cars, travel several miles, or use public transit to gain

access to healthful food. My District's physical distance from fresh food influences eating behaviors and preferences for palatable, processed foods. To create a healthy relationship with food, the City, and this Committee, should seek to create a direct connection between fresh produce and our residents. A few ways to accomplish this is to attract quality and responsible grocers, ensure that healthy food is incorporated in schools and to advocate for additional wellness programs.

In addition to the priorities outlined above, I look forward to expanding our oversight and focus to include addressing homelessness, veterans affairs, senior citizens services and consumer protection.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Pamela Ison in my office at (619) 236-6701.

MC:pi