OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT TODD GLORIA
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 24, 2014

TO: Honorable Councilmember Marti Emerald

FROM: Council President Todd Gloria

SUBJECT: 2014 Priorities for the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee

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Thank you for your continued leadership of the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods (PS&LN) Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute my suggestions for your consideration as priorities for PS&LN for 2014.

Maintain oversight of staffing levels of all departments within the Committee's jurisdiction. Remaining updated on the status of ongoing and upcoming public safety academies, and on foreseeable staffing vacancies would be of great value to our city so proper planning and decisions can be made. Further, monitoring the use and impact of the funds allocated in Fiscal Year 2014 for San Diego Police Department retention would be appropriate.

Promoting diversity in the San Diego Police Department's and San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's recruitment efforts to ensure our public safety forces more closely represent the communities they serve.

Consider frameworks for determining the efficacy of local homeless services and best practices. I have shared that one of my goals is to end homelessness in Downtown San Diego by 2016, and I look forward to approving a Fiscal Year 2015 budget that more effectively allocates the city's scarce homeless services funds. As we consider future funding options and potential expansion of programs to other parts of the city, it would be appropriate to have a way to assess local programs. In addition, all homeless service providers funded with city resources, including internal programs like the Homeless Outreach Team and Serial Inebriate Program and external programs like the Neil Good Day Center, should be asked to report outcomes to the Committee periodically. I also suggest the Committee consider inviting federal, state, and local organizations and entities to present best practices on ending homelessness to help inform future decision-making.

Develop a budget and timeline to enable the Fire-Rescue Department to better compete in a future emergency medical services (EMS) request for proposals process. It remains my hope that the Fire-Rescue Department will be well-positioned to submit a winning bid and become the city's EMS sole provider, and I would like the Committee to create a workable plan so steps can be taken toward this goal.

Provide guidance and input on the potential extension of and amendments to the city's contract with Rural/Metro for EMS. It is imperative that the city ensures continuity of service and address response time concerns as the current RFP process occurs.

Obtain regular reports on public safety fleet resources. The number of available reserve fire engines and fire trucks has periodically dipped below minimally adequate levels. The Committee may want to consider asking for reports on vehicle availability so appropriate actions can be taken to ensure the continued safety of our citizens and visitors.

Monitor the effects of AB 109 and ensure appropriate resources and support are available for policing as more offenders are released into the public. Specifically, advocate for continued AB 109 front line law enforcement assistance funding provided to the region to address increased supervision of probationers as a result of the Governor's prison realignment. The City has received disbursements based on population served to fund operations through the end of FY2014. One additional allocation is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2015, but no allocations beyond 2015 are known at this time. The San Diego Police Department uses the funds to conduct unscheduled compliance check details on AB 109 probationers. The crime analysis unit has partnered with its counterparts from the Probation Department and the Law Enforcement Coordination Center to ensure accuracy of probation information and to maintain updated profiles. There have been dozens of arrests of both AB109 probationers and other probationers contacted during the details. Continued funding will allow SDPD to continue monitoring probationers without interrupting regular operations or negatively impacting the Police Department budget.

I appreciate your consideration of these suggestions and welcome the opportunity to clarify any points above.

cc: Honorable City Councilmembers
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst