City of San Diego

MARK KERSEY

CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: **January 14, 2014**

TO: **Chair Marti Emerald, Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods**

FROM: **Councilman Mark Kersey**

RE: **Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee Priorities for 2014**

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee. Per your January 8, 2014 memorandum, I would like to respectfully request the following issues be considered as priorities for the Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee.

Address San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Retention Challenges. Although we made progress in 2013 on the San Diego Police Department 5-Year plan by dedicating resources to support equipment purchases, SDPD still lost 119 officers over the course of the year. With half of the SDPD police force eligible to retire within the next four years, the retention challenges will require continued attention throughout 2014.

Implement the Fast Response Squad (FRS) Pilot Program. In response to the Citygate recommendation for Fast Response Squads, the City initiated a working group to discuss the feasibility and implementation of a long-term FRS program. The committee should request an update from the Citygate working group in order to gauge the status of ongoing discussions and ability to launch a FRS Pilot Program. Fire Station 33 in Rancho Bernardo, with the largest coverage area of any fire station in the city, currently serves the San Pasqual Valley. Because of the high propensity of medical calls at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park and unusually large coverage area of Fire Station 33, San Pasqual is an ideal location to begin implementation of this innovative service delivery model and evaluate its impact on response times.

Develop E-Cigarette Regulations. Tobacco products are currently regulated by the SDPD Vice Unit. E-Cigarettes, which deliver atomized nicotine via the vaporization of a liquid solution, have not been tested by the FDA, and their long-term effects, both for users and those exposed to second-hand inhalation, are unknown. On January 10th, 2014, I released a memo which proposed the City Council amend the municipal code to regulate e-cigarettes. In order to protect the health of the public, particularly of young people, this committee should docket an item on regulating e-cigarettes at a future meeting.

Investigate Community Paramedicine Opportunities. With a continuously changing healthcare landscape, more people will be seeking local access to healthcare services. Developing a strong community paramedicine program would help close the health care gap by bringing basic health care services into neighborhoods. An integrated community paramedicine program could help alleviate 911 call loads, allowing Fire Department and ambulance service resources to be utilized for more vital emergencies.

Support and Enhance the Neighborhood Watch Program. To reduce the likelihood of criminal activity, this committee should work with the SDPD on helping to establish new Neighborhood Watch communities and support existing Neighborhood Watch groups. By utilizing social media platforms, communities can share timely information regarding suspicious activities in their neighborhoods. A vigilant, motivated, and active Neighborhood Watch discourages canvassing, encourages neighbors to engage with the police, and improves the overall quality of life by offering a sense of protection.

Explore New Opportunities for Recreational Space. As population grows, it's important that the City work to identify potential new park sites, while at the same time look for new ways to deliver services. In order to expand recreational services in District Five, I am working with the Public Utilities Department to re-open Lake Hodges to windsurfing. Utilizing existing resources in innovative ways and identifying new opportunities for recreation will ensure the City can meet the increasing demand for recreation.

Continue to Coordinate with the American Red Cross on Prepare San Diego. In 2013, the City enrolled as a key partner for the Prepare San Diego initiative that intends to get one million residents prepared for a disaster by making a plan, building a kit, or getting trained. To build upon the initial success of Prepare San Diego, we must continue to promote disaster preparedness awareness and improve internal City disaster preparedness measures.

cc: Honorable City Councilmembers