

November 2023 Report  
Office of Mayor Todd Gloria

## **Homelessness Updates**

### **Safe Sleeping**

The safe sleeping program provides people who were previously sleeping in unsafe and unsanitary sidewalk encampments with access to clean new tents, cots (so they are not on the asphalt), sleeping bags, daily meals, bathrooms, as well as access to showers, laundry and supportive services that will help put them on a path to permanent housing.

We now have two safe sleeping sites open. "O" Lot located on the outskirts of Balboa Park, near the Naval Hospital, opened on October 21 and currently has 106 individuals with a capacity of 366 tents. The 20<sup>th</sup> & B Operations Yard safe sleeping site is also still activated with 101 individuals and a capacity of 136 tents.

### **H Barracks & The City's Comprehensive Shelter Strategy**

The [City's Comprehensive Shelter Strategy](#) is a living document that is meant to be changed and updated to meet the evolving needs of the population. The strategy includes an analysis of current shelter options and potential locations for expanding shelter opportunities with estimated costs, site viability and other criteria used to determine suitability of a site.

The shelter strategy identifies "H Barracks" site, located at the north end of the San Diego Bay on industrial land next to the San Diego International Airport and across the boat channel from Liberty Station. The site is approximately a 25-minute walk from Liberty Station. The City owns the H Barracks property, which has been used as a fire and police training center and will ultimately be the site of the Pure Water Phase 2 Project. With construction on the Pure Water facility at least five years away, the site has been identified as an ideal location for a shelter site in the meantime. Work is currently underway to demolish eight structures on the site, which were previously used for San Diego Fire-Rescue training exercises.

Site planning and preparation began in fall 2023 and are expected to take a year. While the precise configuration and types of shelter are still to be determined, what is known is that it will operate like all City shelter sites, with 24-hour security, privacy fencing, case management and robust on-site assistance with connecting clients to the resources that will help end their homelessness.

As occurred after opening the Safe Sleeping sites at the O Lot in Balboa Park and 20<sup>th</sup> & B in Golden Hill, the site is expected to reduce the number of encampments and calls for services in the surrounding area. In addition, the availability of these shelters enables the City to enforce the Unsafe Camping Ordinance, which bans encampments in the public right of way and in canyons and riverbeds.

### **SB 43**

Governor Newsom signed California Senate Bill 43 into law which will expand the definition of "gravely disabled" to include people unable to care for their basic medical needs or personal safety, as well as apply to individuals struggling with severe addiction issues.

### **Mental Health Beds and Reform**

In August, local cities and counties called for \$6.4 billion to the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023 to fund thousands of additional mental health and drug

treatment beds. Governor Newsom and California legislators approved this increase on September 13, but this bond measure will need voter approval in the March 2024 ballot.

## **Public Safety**

### **Smart Streetlights**

The San Diego Police Departments Smart Streetlights contract proposal passed City Council earlier this week. This program will deploy 500 “Smart Streetlight” video cameras paired with Automated License Plate Recognition (“ALPR”) technology in public places throughout San Diego. SDPD will use the Smart Streetlights and ALPR technologies to aid in investigations and assist in solving violent crimes. To implement the new technology, SDPD and all City departments have complied with the City’s new Surveillance Ordinance.

To learn more about the technology and the steps SDPD has followed to comply with the Surveillance Ordinance, visit [www.sandiego.gov/police/technology](http://www.sandiego.gov/police/technology).

### **Chief Nisleit’s Retirement Announcement and New Chief of Police Recruitment Process**

Chief Nisleit announced his retirement which has initiated a robust process to conduct a national search for a new Chief of Police for the San Diego Police Department (SDPD).

The application and hiring brochure for this position is available with Bob Murray & Associates (BMA), an executive recruiter who will be leading the recruitment effort on behalf of the City. BMA will be working with each council office to co-host a community forum in early January (one in each council district) and each councilmember will select an individual to serve on a community panel interview in February 2024. Final interviews will take place in March 2024. City Council will confirm the appointment in April 2024 and the New Police Chief will be sworn in June 2024.

The process to hire a new Chief of Police, outlined in [Council Policy 300-08](#), calls for the Mayor to appoint a candidate to be confirmed by the City Council. For more information on the recruitment process and upcoming community meetings, please visit the City’s Police [Chief Recruitment webpage](#).

### **Mayor for a Day**

The 2023-2024 “Mayor for a Day” contest [is now live!](#) The “Mayor for a Day” contest aims to foster and encourage leadership in young people living in San Diego. City of San Diego K-12 students are invited to submit a brief essay (approximately 500 words) or short video (no more than 3 minutes) on how you would make the City of San Diego a better place if you were the Mayor. The selected winner will be given the opportunity to shadow Mayor Todd Gloria and other City Departments for a day and will be included in the State of the City address in January of 2024. Please [submit an essay or video](#) by 11:59 p.m. Dec. 15, 2023.

Submitted by:

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