

# LACAVA'S COLUMN

## Your District 1 News Update



## Friends,

We did it – we made it through January. Now, with month one behind us, we find ourselves in the midst of February, "Black History Month." And like everything else this past year, it hits a little differently.

While our initial reaction may be to recoil or deflect these evoked emotions, I challenge you to embrace what you are feeling and reflect.

This month is about acknowledging and celebrating Black individuals who have defined and redefined history through their strength, perseverance, and sacrifice. It's about recognizing the Black community's integral role in U.S. history, and about recognizing our own role in Black history as an ally or adversary.

This Black History Month, I pledge to you, my district, and my City to be an ally, to be a witness, and to make room for Black voices at the table. I further vow to honor the contributions of Black Americans and San Diegans, make space for future contributions, and ensure those contributions are heard, incorporated, and celebrated.

"We are striving to forge a union with purpose. To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man." - Amanda Gorman

## Yours truly,



**Councilmember Joe LaCava**  
*joelacava@sandiego.gov*

## COVID-19 Updates

*City*

### **\$45.5 Million in State Funding for Rent Relief on Its Way to Landlords**

On February 5, Mayor Gloria announced that the State will provide over \$45.5 million in assistance for San Diego residents unable to pay rent due to the impacts of COVID-19. This funding comes as part of Senate Bill 91, which distributes funds the State received from the federal government to local agencies.

In total, this week's funding and the direct federal funding announced previously amounts to nearly \$87.9 million in relief for families and individuals financially impacted by the pandemic.

### **Getting on that Vaccination Train – City Now Authorized to Receive and Administer Vaccines**

On February 2, the City announced it is authorized to receive shipments of COVID-19 vaccine doses and administer them to eligible individuals. Currently, the City is vaccinating public employees and Convention Center homeless residents over 65 years. It is the City's intent to expand City-operated vaccination sites for the public when resources are made more readily available.

### **Parking Enforcement is Back**

Following the County and State lifting the regional stay-at-home order, parking enforcement in San Diego will resume issuing fines on Monday, February 8 with warnings issued until then.

### **New Year, New Eviction Moratorium**

On Tuesday, January 26, City Council voted 8-1 to approve a pair of ordinances protecting residential and commercial tenants from eviction during COVID-19.

Under the ordinances, qualifying tenants cannot be evicted for unpaid rent due to financial hardship related to COVID-19. The eviction ban for residential tenants will remain in effect until 60 days after the City's COVID-19 emergency declaration is lifted, while the commercial ban will remain in effect through June 30, 2021, or 60 days after the City's emergency declaration is lifted, whichever comes first.

Both residents and businesses remain responsible for any unpaid rent or lease payments and have six months from the end of the moratorium to make any outstanding payments.

### **Operation Shelter to Home is a (Continued) Go**

In the same City Council meeting as the eviction moratorium, City Council unanimously approved extending the Operation Shelter to Home program at the San Diego Convention Center through March. The extension used funds that had previously been allocated to shelter operations and remained unspent due to cost savings, as well as other funds the City Council had previously approved for homelessness programs, totaling roughly \$8.3 million.

Council also approved a companion item for the San Diego Housing Commission to commit up to \$2 million in federal "Moving to Work" funds to support existing shelter contracts from February through June.

As a reminder, nearly 1200 individuals and families have found housing through the combined efforts of the City, County, and social service organizations making Shelter to Home one of the most successful collaborative efforts to date.

### **Put a Cap on It – 3rd Party Delivery Fees**

On January 25, Mayor Gloria signed an Executive Order capping delivery fees at 15 percent and total fees at 18 percent for third-party delivery apps. This will allow

restaurants to keep more of their hard-earned revenue and better adapt to delivery, a popular and safer alternative to in-person dining, during COVID-19.

## **County**

### **There's Such Thing as a Free Ride (to a Vaccination Site)**

MTS is offering free transit rides to COVID-19 vaccine appointment locations across the region including all vaccination sites in the county such as super vaccination stations, hospitals, and other community immunization locations.

To be eligible for a free ride, residents only need to show a confirmation email of their vaccine appointment that day - either a printout or on a smartphone.

### **New Vaccination Supersite Coming to UCSD**

On February 8, UC San Diego Health will open a COVID-19 vaccination supersite on the UCSD campus, serving vaccination-eligible UCSD Health patients as well as the university's faculty and staff.

The vaccination site will operate inside the UCSD's Recreation, Intramural and Athletic Complex (RIMAC.) Once fully operational, this site will provide up to 5,000 vaccinations daily, operating seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Vaccinations will be administered by invitation only through the [MyUCSDChart application](#) and an online appointment scheduling process.

### **County Expands Vaccination Clinics to La Mesa and San Ysidro**

San Diegans who qualify and want to receive a COVID-19 vaccination now have two more places to do so – one at a vaccination superstation in La Mesa and a smaller clinic in San Ysidro.

The La Mesa site, operated by Sharp HealthCare, will open at the Grossmont Center shopping mall, 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., Suite 212. The new clinic hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, administering up to 1,000 doses with the capacity to expand to 5,000 vaccinations daily. This location will replace and expand the site Sharp HealthCare had been operating on Wakarusa St. Appointments made for that site transfer to the superstation at the mall. Appointments are needed.

A smaller, County-run vaccination clinic at the Southwestern College Higher Education Center at San Ysidro, 460 W. San Ysidro Blvd. will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. It will provide up to 500 doses daily. Appointments are also required at this site.

Appointments for both these locations, in addition to several others, can be made at <http://vaccinationsuperstationsd.com/> .

Our office is working with the Mayor to locate new city operated sites in District 1, stay tuned for updates on our progress.

### **'X' Marks the Spot on County's New Vaccination Map**

To make it easier for San Diegans to make an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, the County launched a new interactive map showing all the vaccination sites. The new map allows users to pick a location and connects them to the appointment system for that site.

You can access the map from a link on <http://bit.ly/sdcovid19map> .

## **State**

## **Round 2 of the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program Open for Business**

Round two of the CA small-business grant program is now open! Fill out an application before 2/8 to apply for grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Qualified applications not funded during round 1 will rollover - no need to reapply. Applications and additional information can be found at <https://careliefgrant.com/>.

## **New Year, New State Eviction Moratorium**

On January 29, Governor Gavin Newsom extended the state's eviction moratorium through June 30, 2021. SB 91 pauses evictions for tenants who are unable to pay all or part of the rent due to a COVID-related reason. Tenants are still responsible for paying unpaid amounts to property owners, but those unpaid amounts cannot be the basis for eviction, even after the moratorium ends.

SB 91 also establishes the State Rental Assistance Program, allocating \$2.6 billion from the federal rental assistance California will receive for a program targeting aid to income-qualified tenants most at-risk with unpaid back rent. Assistance will also be extended to property owners who agree to waive 20 percent of unpaid rent. By agreeing to this waiver, property owners become eligible for 80 percent in rent reimbursements for amounts owed between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

## **State Edits Vaccination Plan**

Moving forward, California will employ statewide movement through the vaccination tiers rather than regional progression. Together as a State, vaccination eligibility will continue to progress through 65+, health care workers, and prioritize emergency services, food and agriculture workers, teachers, and school staff. From there, California will transition to age-based eligibility.

California is launching [My Turn](#), a new system for residents to learn when they are eligible to be vaccinated and make an appointment to do so. Individuals can sign up for a notification, when they are eligible, to make an appointment. Providers will be able to use My Turn to automatically share data on vaccines received and administered with the state, reducing lag times.

## **Stay-at-Home Updated**

On January 25, Gov. Newsom lifted stay-at-home orders across the State. This statewide decision was later reinforced by San Diego County.

Lifting the stay-at-home order allows restaurants to serve diners outdoors and places of worship to offer services outside. Hair and nail salons and other businesses may reopen and retailers can have more shoppers in their stores. The state also lifted the 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew.

***You can track daily COVID case numbers, deaths, tests, and ICU capacity [here](#).***

## ***Federal***

### **Federal Vaccination Site Coming to SoCal**

The Federal government is opening 100 mass vaccination centers around the country within a month, one of which will be at California State University in Los Angeles. This site is expected to be open to eligible residents beginning Feb. 16.

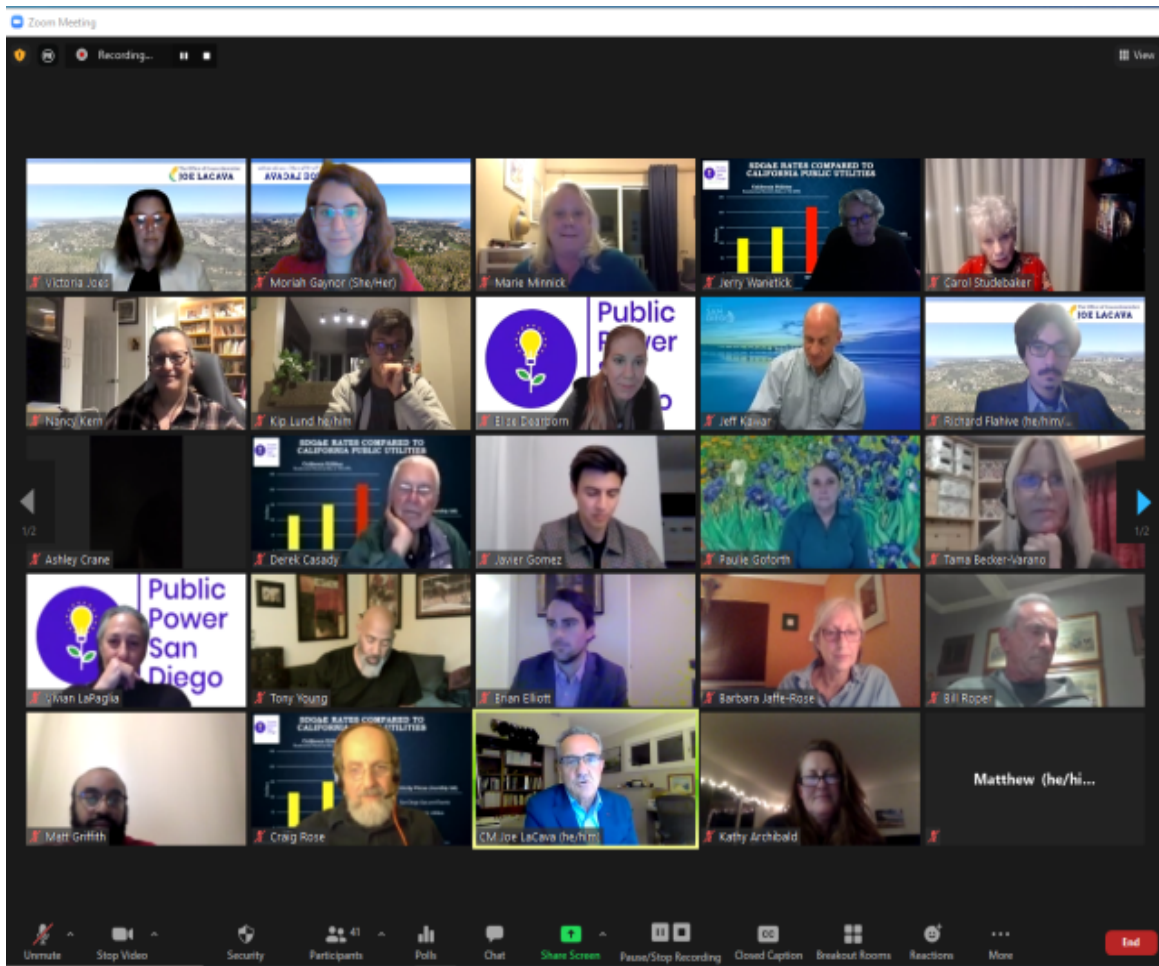
The facilities will be staffed primarily by officials from the Department of Defense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

# Getting it Done (Virtually) in District 1!

Ironically timed power outage and all, this past week I had the pleasure of hosting over 140 registered participants between my two Franchise Town Halls! Thank you to everyone who took the time to engage with my office and let us know what you would like to see included in new gas and electric franchise agreements and the Invitation to Bid process. Your feedback played a vital role in crafting and refining my franchise priorities, which are outlined in the section below.

Civic engagement takes courage and dedication during normal circumstances. Like many of you, environmentalism is my passion, and it was a proud moment seeing so many residents involved in the franchise agreement process.

For those of you who were unable to attend – it's not too late to have your voice heard! Please take a moment to [this survey](#) from the Office of Mayor Gloria and/or reach out to one of our [District 1 staff members](#) with any input you may have.



## News from City Hall

### *My Priorities for the Electric and Gas Franchise Agreements*

The electric and gas franchise agreements are a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the City of San Diego to protect ratepayers' interests, protect our Climate Action Plan efforts, and ensure our energy future is based on transparency, equity and accountability. A decision this consequential takes time. The recent extension of the current agreements has allowed my Council colleagues and I to better understand our options, engage with your office, and most importantly, hear from our constituents.

We must initiate the prospective business plans that align with our goals of decarbonization. I remain a strong proponent of exploring all available options and it is in the City's best interests to examine public power alternatives.

My current priorities include:

- Developing a Public Power option separate from the Invitation to Bid (ITB) process;
- Achieve our Climate Action Plan goals;
- Protect San Diego ratepayers;
- Preserve the City's interest and earn the public's trust.

A more detailed breakdown of my priorities can be found at <https://bit.ly/D1franchisepriorities>.

## Community Representative Office Hours

If you haven't had a chance to say hello yet, stop by your community representative's Zoom "office hours" happening each week!

- Brian Elliott ([belliott@saniego.gov](mailto:belliott@saniego.gov)) will be hosting **Del Mar Heights office hours** from **10 – 11 a.m. on Wednesdays** ([link here](#))
- Kaitlyn Willoughby ([kwilloughby@saniego.gov](mailto:kwilloughby@saniego.gov)) will be hosting **University City office hours** from **10 - 11 a.m. on Fridays** ([link here](#))
- Ricky Flahive ([rflahive@saniego.gov](mailto:rflahive@saniego.gov)) will be hosting **Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, and Torrey Hills office hours** from **11 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Wednesdays** ([link here](#))
- Steve Hadley ([srhadley@saniego.gov](mailto:srhadley@saniego.gov)) will be hosting **La Jolla office hours** from **1 – 2 p.m. on Mondays** ([link here](#))

## Stay Connected with District 1

To stay up to date on all district news and updates, make sure you follow me on Twitter, (@JoeLaCavaD1) Facebook, (@JoeLaCavaD1) and Instagram (@joelacava\_d1) and invite your neighbors to sign up [here](#) to receive email updates like this one!

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