

From: "Councilmember Joe LaCava" <cd1news@sandiego.gov>
Subject: There's a Lot on the Horizon (and in this Newsletter)

LACAVA'S COLUMN

Your District 1 News Update



Friends,

In yesterday's inauguration speech, President Biden stated, "Democracy is fragile." In last week's State of the City address, Mayor Gloria stated, "The state of the City is fragile."

We may be fragile, yet we are not broken.

In fact, we are at a turning point. Yesterday, as a nation, we witnessed the first Madam Vice President get sworn in. President Biden signed orders reinstating ties with the World Health Organization and re-entering the Paris climate accords. He revoked the ban on Muslim travelers and ended the border wall national emergency. Locally, San Diego recently saw major victories, receiving over \$42M in emergency rental assistance and launching our first vaccine "supersite" at Petco Park.

We are far from in the clear, yet we are not defeated. We are fighting harder than ever for our small businesses, our most vulnerable, our historically under-resourced, and our families.

"And so we lift our gaze not to what stands between us, but what stands before us."
- Amanda Gorman

Yours truly,



Councilmember Joe LaCava
joelacava@sandiego.gov

COVID-19 Updates

City

[Just In - \\$42 Million in Emergency Rental Assistance Now Available for San Diegans and a New Eviction Ban Around the Corner](#)

As a result of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, the City of San Diego received \$42.3 million to provide financial assistance to cover unpaid rent and utilities for qualifying residential households affected by COVID-19. This funding will be distributed through a program administered by the San Diego Housing Commission, and details on eligibility and the application process will be forthcoming.

Additionally, a proposal to extend eviction protections for renters and businesses will be brought before the City Council on Tuesday, January 26.

If approved by City Council, the new ordinance would cover:

- Eviction ban for renters;
- Eviction ban for businesses;
- Repayment within six months from the end of the moratorium.

County

[County Vaccine Sites Expand Eligibility to Include those 75+](#)

On January 18, the county announced that residents 75+ are now eligible to obtain a COVID vaccine at one of the County's public vaccination sites.

While those over the age of 65 are eligible at the state level, to obtain a vaccine at a county-run facility, you must be either:

- Over the age of 75
- A healthcare worker
- A resident at a permanent living facility

For those who missed my special newsletter on the Petco Park Vaccination Supersite, you can access a copy of it [here](#), which includes a detailed account of what to expect and how to register (hint: all reservations can be made at <http://vaccinationsuperstationsd.com/>.)

State

[Study Up - New Resource for Safe Schools for All Initiative](#)

The New Safe Schools for All hub – schools.covid19.ca.gov – was launched on January 14 to serve as a one-stop-shop for state guidance and resources on safely resuming in-person instruction.

This hub provides regularly updated guidelines and information, a portal for parents and staff to report school-specific safety concerns, and an area for administrators to request technical assistance on developing and implementing safety plans.

[2021 – 22 Budget Season \(State Edition\)](#)

On January 8, Governor Newsom submitted his \$227.2 billion state budget. Some key allocations include:

- \$372 million to speed up vaccine administration;

- \$14 billion in relief for those who have lost their jobs or small businesses, or are facing eviction; this includes direct cash supports of \$600 to millions of Californians, extending new protections and funding to help keep people in their homes; and investing in relief grants for small businesses;
- \$90 billion for school funding, which includes \$2 billion to support and accelerate safe returns to in-person instruction, \$4.6 billion to help students bounce back from the impacts of the pandemic, and \$400 million for school-based mental health services;
- \$777.5 million for a California Jobs Initiative, which focuses on job creation and retention, regional development, small businesses, and climate innovation;
- \$353 million for one-time and ongoing investments to support California's workers as they adapt to changes in the economy brought about by COVID-19;
- \$1 billion to address a comprehensive wildfire and forest resilience strategy.

More information on the full proposed budget can be found [here](#).

[More Help is on its Way – Info on CA's \\$600 Rapid Cash Payments & Calls for Extension of Eviction Moratorium](#)

To be included in Governor Newsom's proposed budget, on January 6 he announced the Golden State Stimulus, which will provide an extra \$600 via direct aid to roughly four million low-income Californians. Unlike the federal stimulus, this will include undocumented households that file taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN.)

Additionally, Governor Newsom called for extending eviction protections and ensuring that California's \$2.6 billion federal rental assistance is distributed according to greatest need and with accountability.

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

Federal

[New Federal Leader, New Federal COVID-19 Policy](#)

Today, January 21, President Joe Biden dropped his 200-page [national strategy for COVID-19 response and preparedness](#). Due to the timing, my office was unable to fully digest its content before hitting "send" on this week's newsletter, but stay tuned for my next newsletter where we'll break down what's in this document and the local implications.

[The Now-President's \\$1.9 Trillion Proposal](#)

On January 14, President Biden released his \$1.9 Trillion COVID-19 stimulus proposal. While Congress still must vote on this deal, if passed, some of this package's key items are:

- \$416 billion to combat COVID-19 directly (including a federal vaccination program;)
- Intent to open most schools within 100 days;
- \$350 billion for state, local, and territorial governments;
- \$1,400 direct payments to individuals;
- \$400/week extra for unemployment;
- \$15/hour- federal minimum wage;
- \$25 billion in rental assistance for low- and moderate-income households who have lost jobs during the pandemic;
- The reinstatement of paid sick and family leave benefits ([that expired at the end of December](#)) until September 30;
- \$15 billion for a new small-business grant program separate from the existing Paycheck Protection Program

A more comprehensive breakdown of this stimulus package can be found [here](#).

News from City Hall

Getting My (FY22 Budget) Priorities in Check

The global COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every aspect of normal life causing tens of thousands of small businesses and working families to lose income and in worse cases, lose the life of loved ones. The City of San Diego has not been spared and faces a historic financial loss.

I have prioritized the following categories in my budget priorities memo:

- Increasing Assistance to Small Businesses and Renters;
- Protecting Core Services;
- Funding Public Power Feasibility Study and Business Plan;
- Protecting Current Funding Levels;
- Implementing Measure B to Establish the City's Commission on Police Practices;
- Re-Examining City Operations and Culture;
- Exploring Potential Revenue Opportunities;

As the Mayor and Council move forward this fiscal year to close a historic funding gap, we must lead with our values, ensuring a budget that prioritizes equity, high-value services, and human capital.

A full copy of my memo can be found [here](#).

Streamlined Permitting and Faster Housing Part of Annual Land Development Code Update

On January 14, City Council approved 44 new updates to the Land Development Code. Some highlights include:

- Eliminating minimum parking limits in the Gaslamp Quarter and instead establishing a maximum parking limit;
- Removing the requirement that ground-floor commercial spaces must remain vacant for six months before being converted into residential spaces;
- Permitting anyone issued a construction permit between March 2020 and March 2022 to defer their development impact fees (DIFs) for three years instead of two;
- Making allowances for outdoor dining on private property (like parking lots) past COVID-19.

Updates to the Land Development Code are made annually, so while those submitted to be incorporated in 2021 were just approved – you have until March if you wish to submit an update for future consideration. More details can be found [here](#).

Temporary Outdoor Business Operations 101

For business owners looking to expand outdoors, or who have already expanded their operations outdoors into the right of way (ROW), the City has released a resource guide to help businesses obtain and maintain legal outdoor operations.

Learn more about temporary outdoor dining requirements and view photos of compliant outdoor expansion projects at sandiego.gov/TOB.

Upcoming Franchise Agreement Town Halls Hosted by Yours Truly

After 50 years the City of San Diego will be negotiating new gas and electric agreements, and we need your input to ensure that our City and ratepayers receive the best possible deal.

To share your input and learn more about the franchise process, I invite you to attend one of two town halls I am hosting on the topic.

The first town hall will be held on Saturday, 1/30 at 9:30 a.m. and you can register at <http://bit.ly/D1townhall1>.

The second town hall will be held on Wednesday, 2/3 at 5:30 p.m. and you can register at <http://bit.ly/D1townhall2>.

I look forward to hearing your input.



What: An opportunity to learn about the upcoming franchise process and provide feedback about what aspects of the new franchise agreements are important to you.

Who: Councilmember Joe LaCava, representatives from Mayor Gloria's office, and you.

When: Sat., January 30 from 9:30 - 11 a.m.
Weds., February 3 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Where: 1/30 Zoom registration:
<http://bit.ly/D1townhall1>
2/3 Zoom registration:
<http://bit.ly/D1townhall2>



Getting it Done in La Jolla!

This week I had the honor of awarding my first commendation as a councilmember to Bela and Mira Gowda, two bright, young innovators from The Bishop School in La Jolla.

Bela and Mira founded "[Operation Nourish](#)," a nonprofit that supports the community's healthcare and restaurant sectors by purchasing bulk meals from local restaurants and donating them to nearby medical facilities. Since its inception, Bela and Mira have provided over 1,000 meals from heavily impacted restaurants to healthcare workers at six area hospitals.

Thank you both for your commitment to the community and your creativity – keep up the great work!



Some Nifty New Features – Community Calendar & Office Hours

I'm pleased to announce two new internal improvements – our brand new community calendar, and community representative office hours!

Our new calendar can be found on my website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1/calendar> and will be regularly updated to include all upcoming community events across District 1 and in City Hall.

Team LaCava is also rolling out a new meeting format – community representative office hours!

While you are always welcome to reach out to a member of my team outside of these times, if you want to chat with your community representative, you now know where they'll be at least once a week.

Starting Monday, January 25, community representatives will be hosting recurring Zoom sessions, so feel free to stop by.

- Brian Elliott (belliott@sandiego.gov) will be hosting **Del Mar Heights office hours from 10 – 11 a.m. on Wednesdays** ([link here](#))
- Kaitlyn Willoughby (kwilloughby@sandiego.gov) will be hosting **University City office hours from 10 - 11 a.m. on Fridays** ([link here](#))
- Ricky Flahive (rflahive@sandiego.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@sandiego.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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