



**COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER CAMPBELL
COUNCIL DISTRICT TWO**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 27, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer

FROM: Councilmember Jennifer Campbell *Jennifer Campbell*

SUBJECT: Public Health and Environment Considerations

Under your leadership, the City of San Diego became the first in the region to enact closures and stay-at-home orders in response to COVID-19. Our health officials believe these actions have significantly reduced the spread in our communities and saved lives.

However, without consistent enforcement of the public health order we run the risk of forfeiting the progress we have made to slow the spread of this deadly virus. The County of San Diego has required facial coverings (masks) as of May 1st when in public, and I would ask you to direct the appropriate officials to fully enforce this order to the fullest extent possible.

My office continues to receive calls to reopen our beaches, boardwalks, and bays by constituents whose daily routines have been disrupted by this pandemic. The decision to reopen city parks for passive use will hopefully provide our communities with an outlet for fresh air, sunlight, and exercise. As a family physician for over 30 years, I know these are great contributors to individual mental and physical health. However, we must keep our vigilance to remain healthy.

Moreover, as Chair of the Environment Committee, I cannot help but notice there have been significant environmental silver linings worth recognizing. For example, air quality monitors have shown significant improvements in our air quality. This is due to record

low emission levels from reduced vehicle travel and increases in pedestrians and cyclists on our streets.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you direct the appropriate departments to explore expanding pedestrian and bike access and implement enhanced safety measures on high-pedestrian city streets. These measures might include: reducing speed limits; expanding walking areas beyond sidewalks to allow for a safe 6 foot distance; and altering pedestrian traffic signs to be automatic without the need to push a “beg button.”

I would ask that you work with my office, as well as the respective town councils or planning groups within District 2, to select such streets. Immediate suggestions for such measures include but are not limited to:

Diamond Street in Pacific Beach, from Olney Street to Mission Boulevard
Bacon Street in Ocean Beach
Sunset Cliffs Boulevard south of Point Loma Ave.

By expanding street access for pedestrians and bikes, while not impeding residential and emergency access, the city can also study long term opportunities for our environment. A clear analysis on the possibilities could inspire a vision for the San Diego of tomorrow; one that prioritizes walkability and more open green space for our communities. A priority for me as Chair of the Environment Committee, and a goal of our Climate Action Plan.

I look forward to discussing these issues with you further and appreciate all your efforts in keeping San Diego families, businesses, and workers healthy and safe.

cc: Aimee Faucett, Chief of Staff
Kris Michell, Chief Operating Officer
Cody Hooven, Chief Sustainability Officer
Mike Hansen, Director of Planning
Kris McFadden, Director of Transportation Storm Water
Jessica Lawrence, Director of Council Affairs
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