

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#6

Tuesday, December
5, 2023

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD

DISTRIBUTED 12/05/2023

From: [Potter, Andrew](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: Fwd: San Diego Regional Elected Officials Letter Opposing Delay of Conservatorship Reform SB 43
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:43:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[20231204_SB43_County_SignOn_LetterFINAL.pdf](#)

From: Granda, Adrian <ADGranda@sandiego.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:29 PM
To: Vargas, Nora (BOS) <Nora.Vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Anderson, Joel <Joel.Anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Lawson-Remer, Terra <Terra.Lawson-Remer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Desmond, Jim <Jim.Desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Potter, Andrew <Andrew.Potter@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Cc: Garcia, Denice <Denice.Garcia@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Sleeper, Maggie <Maggie.Sleeper@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Elledge, Meghan <Meghan.Elledge@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Gretler, Darren M <Darren.Gretler@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Robbins-Meyer, Helen <Helen.Robbins-Meyer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; McDonald, Eric <Eric.McDonald@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Akers, Dion <DAkers@sandiego.gov>
Subject: [External] San Diego Regional Elected Officials Letter Opposing Delay of Conservatorship Reform SB 43

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached correspondence from mayors, councilmembers, and elected officials from throughout San Diego County opposing the actions proposed for the Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting Item 6, to delay implementation of SB 43.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Adrian Granda (*he/him*)
Director, Department of Government Affairs
Office of Mayor Todd Gloria
City of San Diego
C: 619-218-7083
O: 619-533-5965
ADGranda@sandiego.gov

San Diego Mayor
TODD
GLORIA
www.sandiego.gov/mayor

Please note, the use of Mayor Gloria's name/image is not permitted on any promotional materials



December 4, 2023

Honorable Chair Nora Vargas
Board of Supervisors
San Diego County
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Opposition to Delay of SB 43 to January 1, 2025

Dear Chair Vargas:

As mayors and elected officials representing the residents throughout San Diego County, we are writing to urge the County of San Diego to implement Senate Bill 43 (SB 43) when it goes into effect on January 1, 2024 and not delay to January 1, 2025.

SB 43 was signed into law earlier this year and provides the first major update to the State's conservatorship laws in decades. It extends this life saving intervention to people with severe substance use disorders and those who cannot provide for their own basic personal safety or medical needs. This legislation helps counties deliver critical public safety and public health services to the most vulnerable people in our communities, promotes safer neighborhoods, and is necessary to connect those with severe behavioral health challenges to treatment.



December 4, 2023

Hon. Nora Vargas
Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 9101

Transmitted Electronically

RE: SB 43 Implementation Delay

Dear Chair Vargas:

I am writing to you on behalf of the San Diego County Lodging Association (SDCLA) out of concern for the County's potential delay in implementing Senate Bill 43 (SB 43). As you know, SDCLA represents San Diego's lodging and hospitality industry, which is responsible for thousands of local jobs and contributes billions of dollars in economic activity throughout the region. We urge the County to continue in its commitment to addressing San Diego's behavioral health challenges by implementing SB 43 when it goes into effect on January 1, 2024.

SDCLA supported SB 43 because it provides a crucial tool in expanding access to services for those grappling with severe mental illness and substance abuse issues, many of whom have been rendered incapable of caring for themselves. In addition to the humanitarian aspect, we must also recognize the economic ramifications that the behavioral health crisis poses to our business community. It is widely acknowledged that one of the key factors influencing decisions related to leisure, event, and convention travel is the host region's reputation in managing the adverse effects of homelessness.

We urge you to consider the far-reaching consequences of any potential delay in the implementation of SB 43. Timely action is essential to meet the needs of our most vulnerable population and to bolster San Diego's economic resiliency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Tayco".

Fred Tayco
Executive Director

San Diego County Lodging Association

CC: Vice Chair Terra Lawson-Remer
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Monica Montgomery-Steppe
Supervisor Jim Desmond



December 4, 2023

Honorable Chair Nora Vargas
Board of Supervisors
San Diego County
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

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While the law allows for counties to delay implementation until 2026, our County is experiencing an unacceptable behavioral health crisis – one all of us see clearly every day in our communities. Putting implementation off will cost people their lives, and is an abdication of the County's responsibility to provide the critical mental health services to the most vulnerable in our communities.

Residents directly feel the impacts of our broken behavioral health system and deserve good faith efforts to implement tools like SB 43 early. These individuals are family members, neighbors, and people who deserve the kind of care counties and hospitals are funded to provide, and should not be left to suffer repeated short term holds for another year. First responders from throughout our region bear the brunt of this broken system each and every day, and residents again pay the price by way of longer response times.

We respectfully ask for the County to not delay SB 43 implementation and to work with cities and other public safety and health partners to expand services to those that need them the most. Our communities expect us to take action now to address the challenges of mental health, addiction and homelessness. We look forward to our continued partnership in taking on these challenges together.

Sincerely,



TODD GLORIA
Mayor
City of San Diego



MARA W. ELLIOTT
City Attorney
City of San Diego



JENNIFER CAMPBELL
Councilmember, District 2
City of San Diego



STEPHEN WHITBURN
Councilmember, District 3
City of San Diego



MARNI VON WILPERT
Councilmember, District 5
City of San Diego



KEITH BLACKBURN
Mayor
City of Carlsbad



RICHARD BAILEY
Mayor
City of Coronado



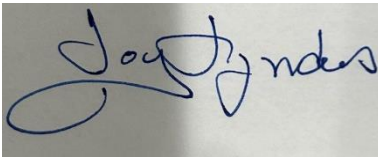
TRACY MARTINEZ
Mayor
City of Del Mar



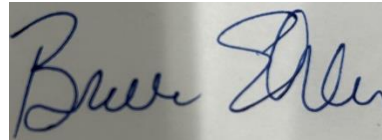
STEVE GOBLE
Deputy Mayor
City of El Cajon



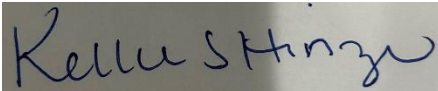
TONY KRANTZ
Mayor
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Councilmember
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DANE WHITE
Mayor
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MARK ARAPOSTATHIS
Mayor
City of La Mesa



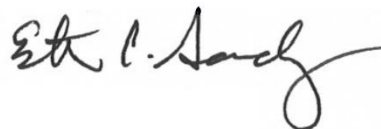
COLIN PARENT
Councilmember
City of La Mesa



RACQUEL VASQUEZ
Mayor
City of Lemon Grove



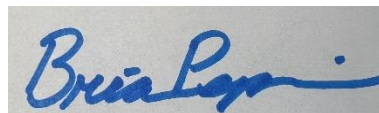
RON MORRISON
Mayor
City of National City



ESTHER SANCHEZ
Mayor
City of Oceanside



STEVE VAUS
Mayor
City of Poway



BRIAN PEPIN
Councilmember
City of Poway

CC: Vice Chair Terra Lawson-Remer
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond
Supervisor Elect Monica Montgomery Steppe
Helen Robbins Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Eric McDonald, Interim Agency Director



December 4, 2023

Honorable Chair Nora Vargas
Board of Supervisors
San Diego County
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Opposition to Delay of SB 43 to January 1, 2025

Dear Chair Vargas:

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Residents directly feel the impacts of our broken behavioral health system and deserve good faith efforts to implement tools like SB 43 early. These individuals are family members, neighbors, and people who deserve the kind of care counties and hospitals are funded to provide, and should not be left to suffer repeated short term holds for another year. First responders from throughout our region bear the brunt of this broken system each and every day, and residents again pay the price by way of longer response times.

We respectfully ask for the County to not delay SB 43 implementation and to work with cities and other public safety and health partners to expand services to those that need them the most. Our communities expect us to take action now to address the challenges of mental health, addiction and homelessness. We look forward to our continued partnership in taking on these challenges together.

Sincerely,

Ron Morrison, Mayor
City of National City

CC: Vice Chair Terra Lawson-Remer
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond
Supervisor Elect Monica Montgomery Steppe
Helen Robbins Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Eric McDonald, Interim Agency Director

Mayor Ron Morrison
1243 National City Blvd., National City, CA 91950-4301
Office: (619) 336-4233 Cell: (619) 250-6091 Fax: (619) 336-4239
rmorrison@nationalcityca.gov www.nationalcityca.gov

NAIOP San Diego

BOMA San Diego

December 4, 2023

Hon. Nora Vargas, Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 9101

Transmitted Electronically

RE: SB 43 Implementation

Dear Chair Vargas:

On behalf of NAIOP San Diego, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, and the Building Owners and Managers Association of San Diego (BOMA), we are writing today in support of immediate implementation of SB 43. We understand the timeline for implementation will be discussed by the Board of Supervisors, and we strongly moving forward as soon as possible.

Both NAIOP and BOMA have had a long history of supporting measures to provide services and opportunities for care for individuals facing homelessness. Some of those behavioral health issues are exacerbated by drug and alcohol addiction, which has helped, in part, drive the increasing numbers of unsheltered individuals. Our organizations have gotten involved and supported these legislative efforts as a means to help these individuals break the cycle they're in and get the help they need. For those who can't make decisions, this tool is important, as is implementation and use of this tool.

We understand there may be costs inherent with implementation, but don't believe this is sufficient reason to delay implementation. In addition to the humanitarian need, the cost of not doing something is equally as great, and should factor in to the decision on when to proceed.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kelly Moden, Chair
NAIOP San Diego

Thor Emblem, Chair
BOMA San Diego



CITY COUNCILMEMBER STEVE GOBLE

December 2, 2023

Honorable Chair Nora Vargas
Board of Supervisors
San Diego County
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Opposition to Delay of SB 43 to January 1, 2025

Dear Chair Vargas,

I am opposed to delaying implementation of SB43 in San Diego County until 2025.

It is not compassionate nor sensible to let people with severe substance usage disorders or mental illnesses spend their lives living on the streets.

Medical care professionals, our law enforcement officers, and our firefighters/paramedics are spending too many tax dollars cycling those with the above afflictions in and out of hospitals. We need SB43's tools to force the most severely afflicted, those who can't make reasonable decisions for their own care, into care. It need not be permanent, but it needs to start on January 1, 2024 not a year later.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Goble".

Steve Goble
Deputy Mayor
City of El Cajon

CC: Vice Chair Terra Lawson-Remer
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond
Supervisor Elect Monica Montgomery Steppe
Helen Robbins Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Eric McDonald, Interim Agency Director



December 4, 2023

To whom it may concern:

There are far too many people suffering on the streets of San Diego County from addiction and mental health disorders. And, tragically, homeless deaths have reached record levels, with at least 550 unhoused San Diegans dying on the streets in 2023 alone.

Effectively reducing homelessness and aiding San Diego's most vulnerable neighbors will require urgent action and collaboration between the County and the 18 city governments. Providing an immediate pathway off the streets and into shelter coupled with lifesaving and sustainable supportive services is critical.

While the Lucky Duck Foundation does not support delaying the implementation of Senate Bill 43, we strongly encourage the Hospital Association, County of San Diego, County Health, and all 18 cities throughout San Diego County to collaborate and work aggressively to implement this new law as quickly as possible. Waiting 12 months to do so would be irresponsible at best. Implementing no later than April 1, while not ideal, would be much better than delaying for 12 months.

The Lucky Duck Foundation is ready to help support these implementation efforts by deploying our resources in any way that can help activate immediate and cost-effective strategies that help individuals with addiction and mental health disorders find a pathway off the streets.

Finally, we pose the question: when will the County and local governments start the conversation about what behavioral health infrastructure is truly required to serve San Diego County's homeless population amidst the rising deaths, mental health and addiction issues? The Lucky Duck Foundation sincerely requests that you begin facilitating this critically needed conversation and necessary actions now.

Sincerely,

The Lucky Duck Foundation

While the law allows for counties to delay implementation until 2026, our County is experiencing an unacceptable behavioral health crisis – one all of us see clearly every day in our communities. Putting implementation off will cost people their lives, and is an abdication of the County's responsibility to provide the critical mental health services to the most vulnerable in our communities.

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Sincerely,



TODD GLORIA
Mayor
City of San Diego



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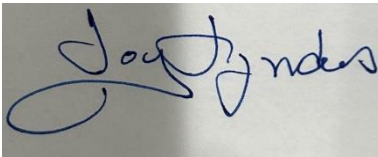
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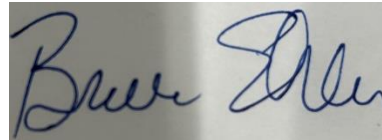
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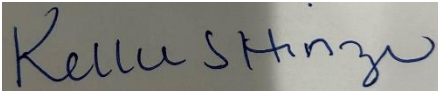
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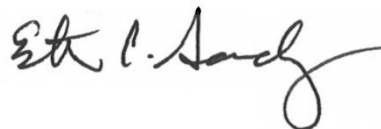
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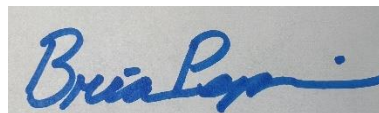
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BRIAN PEPIN
Councilmember
City of Poway

CC: Vice Chair Terra Lawson-Remer
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond
Supervisor Elect Monica Montgomery Steppe
Helen Robbins Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Eric McDonald, Interim Agency Director

From: [Martin, Ruth](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Castaneda, Amy](#); [Potter, Andrew](#)
Subject: Letters in Support of Item #6
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:27:14 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[SYHealth LOS SB 43 Delay.pdf](#)
[Chair Vargas SB 43 Letter 120123 Final.pdf](#)
[Chris Van Gorder - SB-43 12.5.23.pdf](#)
[Item 6 - Letter of Support from McAlister Institute.pdf](#)
[LOS SB43 12.1.23.pdf](#)
[SB43 letter from SD Emergency Physicians Inc.pdf](#)
[Sharp LOS SB 43 Phased In Implementation.pdf](#)
[Support for SB43 Implementation 2025.pdf](#)
[Support Item 6 Board of Supervisors Dember 5th Meeting.pdf](#)
[2023 12.04.23 LOS SB43.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Good morning,

Attached please find some letters that our office received for Item #6. We would appreciate if these could be entered into the record for this item. Thank you so much! Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Best,



Ruth O. Martin (*she/her/hers*)

Interim Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs

Office of Chairwoman Nora Vargas | County Supervisor, First District
1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101

Direct: 619.531.5666 | Mobile: 858.833.5515 | Office: 619.531.5511

Website: www.SupervisorNoraVargas.com

E-Mail: Ruth.Martin@sdcounty.ca.gov



"Building Healthier and Stronger Communities"

Disclosure: This email is public information. Correspondence to and from this email address is recorded and may be viewed by third parties and the public upon request.



November 30, 2023

Chairwoman Nora Vargas
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92101

Re: Letter of Support for the 2025 Implementation of SB 43

Dear Chairwoman Vargas and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed resolution to implement Senate Bill 43 (SB 43) on January 1, 2025, and to commend the County of San Diego for its dedication to prioritize the behavioral health needs of our community. The County of San Diego has been leading the efforts in California to overhaul the behavioral health continuum of care and has taken a proactive stance in implementing innovative programs such as the CARE Act, which was designed to address the needs of those suffering from untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders.

The recent passage of SB 43, signed into law by Governor Newsom, marks a pivotal moment in addressing the complex challenges associated with involuntary commitment under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS Act). The amendments introduced by SB 43, particularly the expansion of the definition of "gravely disabled" to include severe substance use disorder (SUD), represent a crucial step forward in ensuring that individuals facing serious behavioral health challenges receive the care and support they need.

Just like the implementation of the CARE Act, it is crucial that the County of San Diego bring stakeholders comprising of the County's Behavioral Health Services, service providers, community members, local municipalities, and other stakeholders needed to develop the implementation of SB 43 to identify the infrastructure needs for successful implementation. The County's dedication to engaging the broader community in this multi-sectoral planning process is commendable. By involving stakeholders at every level, the County can ensure that the implementation of SB 43 is comprehensive, responsive, and aligned with the diverse needs of the community it serves.

The adoption of this resolution is a significant stride towards creating a more compassionate and effective behavioral health system in the County of San Diego. I appreciate the Chairwoman and Board of Supervisors leadership and their commitment to the well-being of our community members.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working alongside the County of San Diego to ensure the successful implementation of SB 43 and support the County's continued efforts in transforming behavioral health services.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Mattson
President and CEO



HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION of San Diego & Imperial Counties

December 1, 2023

Honorable Chair Nora Vargas
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, CA, 92101

RE: Support for Item 6 — *Adopt Resolution to Guide Implementation of SB 43 & Establish a Multisectoral Planning Process to Guide Implementation*

Dear Chair Vargas,

On behalf of member hospitals and health systems, we are writing to support Item 6 on the board's December 5th agenda. We appreciate your leadership in pursuing a delay in the implementation of SB 43 in San Diego County. If SB 43 goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2024, there will be insufficient services in place for people who are deemed to meet the new requirements of gravely disabled.

SB 43 is anticipated to significantly increase the number of people placed on involuntary holds brought to hospital emergency departments. Hospital emergency departments continue to see record level patient volumes, and without adding the capacity or other critical resources to make sure they are equipped to serve these individuals, they will struggle to meet the needs of all San Diegans.

Health care providers at all stages of care needs are already struggling to meet the increasing number of patients needing involuntary treatment today. Hospitals are at capacity, there is a lack of post-acute care facilities, and the County of San Diego's Conservatorship Office is already operating at or near capacity. Every day in our communities, vulnerable patients experience significant delays accessing critical services.

Given the wide-ranging impact of expanding the definition of "gravely disabled," San Diego County hospitals support the recommendation to include a multi-sectoral planning process with key parties and agencies affected by and/or involved with the implementation of SB 43. The planning process will allow the County to assess gaps in services in the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System of care for people with substance use disorders, standardize policies and communication processes, and evaluate the impact of CARE Courts on provider capacity and patient volume.

Delaying the implementation of SB 43 will preserve finite capacity within our already strained health care ecosystem and allow time for the multi-sectoral planning process to ensure the successful implementation of a program meant to help the most vulnerable members of our community.

We support Item 6 and look forward to continued engagement to strengthen our regional systems of care. Please feel free to contact me at dalexiou@hasdic.org or 858-614-0200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dimit Alexiou".

Dimitrios Alexiou, FACHE
President & CEO
Hospital Association of San Diego & Imperial Counties

CC: Terra Lawson-Remer

Joel Anderson

Jim Desmond

Dr. Eric McDonald, Interim Agency Director, HHSA

Dr. Wilma Wooten, Public Health Officer, HHSA

Luke Bergmann, Director of Behavioral Health Services, HHSA

Holly Porter, Deputy CAO of PSG

Jeff Collins, Director, San Diego County Fire



Chris D. Van Gorder, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer
Scripps Health

10140 Campus Point Drive, CPA-400
San Diego, CA 92121
Tel 858-678-7200 Fax 858-678-6767

December 5, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas
Chairwoman, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, CA, 92101
[sent electronically]

Dear Chairwoman Vargas,

I am writing today on behalf of Scripps Health (Scripps) to express our support for the proposed resolution that creates an implementation plan for Senate Bill 43 (SB 43) and enacts the statute on January 1, 2025.

Scripps was founded in 1924 by philanthropist Ellen Browning Scripps and is a safety-net provider in San Diego County. We treat more than 600,000 patients annually through the dedication of 3,000 affiliated physicians and more than 15,000 employees among our five acute-care hospital campuses, outpatient centers and clinics.

Senate Bill 43 (Eggman) expands the definition of "gravely disabled" under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act and for the first time in more than 50 years, makes significant amendments to the (LPS) Act to expand involuntary commitments to those with severe substance disorders.

We don't disagree that these individuals need help. We don't oppose SB 43. We are asking that the county take the time to implement it responsibly. Creating new involuntary holds in hospital emergency rooms for severe substance abuse without any proper education and training is irresponsible.

We need to develop standardized protocols to train law enforcement, first responders and health care professionals on this new law. Behavioral health challenges require rigorous planning and coordination across multiple County departments and between the County of San Diego, hospitals, physicians, law enforcement and other external stakeholders.

Our struggles with the continuum of care for behavioral health patients in our hospitals are growing rapidly. There are currently insufficient services in place for people who will now meet the new definition of gravely disabled. We are already experiencing capacity issues in hospital emergency rooms, with boarding patients increasing every day.

This time allotted in the resolution would allow the County of San Diego plan to prepare and coordinate with all other stakeholders in order to develop a plan to manage the implementation.

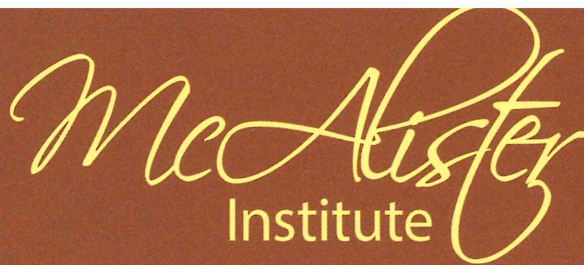
Scripps is committed to providing superior health services in a caring environment and to make a positive, measurable difference in the health of individuals in the communities we serve. We look forward to working together with the County of San Diego, as well as with other key stakeholders to ensure that we are able to continue meeting our mission with every patient we serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris D. Van Gorder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" being the most prominent.

Chris D. Van Gorder, FACHE
President and CEO



CORPORATE OFFICE

1400 N. Johnson Avenue, Suite 101 • El Cajon, CA 92020

Tel. (619) 442-0277 • Fax. (619) 442-1101

info@mcalisterein.org • www.mcalisterinc.org

Funded in part by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency
United Way Certified

McAlister Institute is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation
Federal Tax Identification #95-3140767

December 4, 2023

Honorable Chair Nora Vargas
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, CA, 92101

Dear Chairwoman Vargas and Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for continuing to prioritize the behavioral health needs of our community. As you consider Agenda Item 6, *Adopt a Resolution to Guide Implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 43 and Establish a Multisectoral Planning Process to Guide Implementation*, I am writing to express support for the recommendation that Senate Bill (SB) 43 be informed by a multi-sectoral planning process.

In partnership with the County of San Diego, McAlister Institute has been a leading resource for individuals and families impacted by substance use disorders (SUDs) for over 46 years. Our 25 programs represent a continuum of services that range from early intervention and diversion services to outpatient and residential treatment options. Even with this expertise, we remain concerned about our system's readiness to respond to an expanded definition of "gravely disabled" to include severe substance use disorder by January 1, 2024.

McAlister's staff are on the frontlines of the behavioral health crisis every day – they are the ones who answer the calls when beds are at capacity. They are the ones fighting across siloed systems to get clients the care they need and piecing together resources that simply don't exist. These realities of care must be considered as part of SB 43's implementation.

Though the work that lies ahead will be great, the Board's call for a multi-sectoral planning process is commendable and an important first step in ensuring that San Diego is thoughtfully addressing the needs of individuals with serious behavioral health challenges. It is crucial that the implementation of SB 43 be informed by stakeholders at every level, including County Behavioral Health Services, service providers like McAlister Institute, local municipalities, justice partners, patient advocates, family members, and, above all, individuals who are most likely to be impacted as a result of their behavioral health conditions.

We support today's recommendations and look forward to joining efforts to help advance our behavioral healthcare system.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McAlister

Founder and Chief Executive Officer



Deacon Jim F. Vargas, OFS
President & CEO

p. 619.446.2151
f. 619.446.2129
deaconjim@neighbor.org

December 1, 2023

Chair Nora Vargas
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chairwoman Vargas and Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Father Joe's Villages, I am writing to express my support for the proposed resolution to implement Senate Bill 43 (SB 43) on January 1, 2025, and to commend the County of San Diego for its dedication to prioritize the behavioral health needs of our community. The County of San Diego has been leading the efforts in California to overhaul the behavioral health continuum of care and has taken a proactive stance in implementing innovative programs such as the CARE Act, which was designed to address the needs of those suffering from untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders.

Father Joe's Villages, a Catholic charity established in 1950 to assist San Diegans experiencing homelessness and poverty, includes a comprehensive campus and scattered-site programs that provide nightly housing for over 2,000 individuals. Father Joe's Villages is the region's largest homeless services provider and is on the front lines in addressing this humanitarian crisis.

The recent passage of SB 43, signed into law by Governor Newsom, marks a pivotal moment in addressing the complex challenges associated with involuntary commitment under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS Act). The amendments introduced by SB 43, particularly the expansion of the definition of "gravely disabled" to include severe substance use disorder (SUD), represent a crucial step forward in ensuring that individuals facing serious behavioral health challenges receive the care and support they need.

Just like the implementation of the CARE Act, it is crucial that the County of San Diego bring stakeholders comprising of the County's Behavioral Health Services, service providers, community members, local municipalities, and other stakeholders needed to develop the implementation of SB 43 to identify the infrastructure needs for successful implementation. The County's dedication to engaging the broader community in this multi-sectoral planning process is commendable. By involving stakeholders at every level, the County can ensure that the implementation of SB 43 is comprehensive, responsive, and aligned with the diverse needs of the community it serves.

The adoption of this resolution is a significant stride towards creating a more compassionate and effective behavioral health system in the County of San Diego. I appreciate the Chairwoman and Board of Supervisors leadership and their commitment to the well-being of our community members.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working alongside the County of San Diego to ensure the successful implementation of SB 43 and support the County's continued efforts in transforming behavioral health services.

Sincerely,

3350 E Street
San Diego, CA 92102

neighbor.org



December 4, 2023

Chair Nora Vargas & Board of Supervisors
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, CA, 92101

RE: Support for Phased-In Implementation of SB 43

Dear Chair Vargas and Honorable Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of the 37 physician-owners of San Diego Emergency Physicians, Inc., expressing our support for Item 6 on the upcoming December 5 San Diego County Board of Supervisors agenda, the "Resolution to Guide Implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 43 and Establish a Multisectoral Planning Process to Guide Implementation."

In our capacity as medical professionals specializing in emergency medicine, we commend your thoughtful proposal for the phased-in implementation of SB 43 in San Diego County.

San Diego Emergency Physicians, Inc. takes pride in serving our community as part of the medical safety net. Over the past several years, we have observed significant increases in emergency department volumes, particularly among patients on involuntary holds. Challenges such as longer wait times in the emergency department and inability to access care arise when hospitals are unable to meet the escalating demands for involuntary treatment due to a shortage of services, programs, and facilities for Medi-Cal patients.

SB 43, which expands the definition of gravely disabled for involuntary holds under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act, garners our support for the positive changes it introduces.

However, as seasoned medical practitioners, we recognize that the successful implementation of substantial changes in healthcare provision, such as those outlined in SB 43, demands thorough preparation and planning to prevent adverse impacts on patients and community-wide access to care.

As emergency physicians, we believe that the phased-in and meticulous implementation of SB 43 as created by Item 6, will enable our region to formulate a coordinated plan and allocate the necessary resources to adequately support and care for individuals who would be impacted by the expanded definition of gravely disabled in SB 43.

We commend Chair Vargas's proposal and eagerly anticipate participating in the phased-in implementation of SB 43.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph M. Bellezzo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Bellezzo" clearly legible.

Joseph Bellezzo, MD
President & CEO
San Diego Emergency Physicians, Inc.



December 4, 2023

Chair Nora Vargas & Board of Supervisors
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, CA, 92101

RE: Support for Phased-In Implementation of SB 43

Dear Chair Vargas & Supervisors,

On behalf of Sharp HealthCare, thank you for your thoughtful proposal for phased-in implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 43 in San Diego County and response to the request by the Hospital Association of San Diego & Imperial Counties. We appreciate your recognition that an immediate roll out of SB 43 would negatively impact access to care in the region by significantly increasing the number of people brought to the hospital and placed on involuntary holds.

Like you, Sharp supports both the changes to the definition of gravely disabled within the California Health and Safety Code outlined in SB 43 as well as the bill's goals. As San Diego County's largest provider of care – and the largest provider of behavioral health care – Sharp is committed to working in partnership with the county, health care providers, law enforcement, emergency medical service providers and behavioral health providers to meet those goals.

Successful implementation of SB 43 requires preparation and planning before enacting these changes to statute to avoid negatively impacting the access to care for all.

San Diego County already faces a shortage of post-acute care resources for patients in need of behavioral health care, while emergency departments are pushed to capacity:

- Demand for services from the County of San Diego's Conservatorship Office currently exceeds capacity.
- Vulnerable patients who meet today's definition of gravely disabled experience significant delays accessing critically needed services.
- The emergency departments at Sharp Memorial Hospital, Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, Sharp Grossmont Hospital and Sharp Coronado Hospital accounted for more than 341,000 patient emergency department visits in fiscal year 2023, nearly 27,000 more than in 2022 and 43,000 more than 2019.

SHARP ORGANIZATIONS

Sharp HealthCare ■ Sharp Memorial Hospital ■ Sharp Grossmont Hospital ■ Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center ■ Sharp Coronado Hospital ■
James S. Brown Hospital for Behavioral Health ■ Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns ■ Sharp McDonald Center ■
Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Centers ■ Sharp Health Plan ■ Sharp HealthCare Foundation ■ Grossmont Hospital Foundation

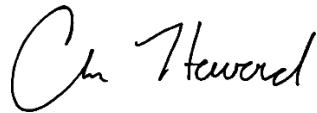
- On average, 17% of the emergency department beds at Sharp's hospitals are occupied by patients awaiting placement per day.
- At Sharp Grossmont Hospital, more than 33% of the patients in the behavioral health unit are on 72-hour involuntary holds each day.
- Last year across San Diego County, there were 17,476 inpatient psychiatric days of care provided to individuals who no longer met medical necessity for inpatient psychiatric care but for which post-acute care placement was not available ("Administrative Days") due to a lack of step-down care options.
- Each Administrative Day decreases the community's access to care as patients await care and placement in an emergency department, inpatient or psychiatric care bed.

Without a phased implementation of SB 43, the existing challenges and delays in access to care will be further exacerbated – creating longer waits for care at the emergency department and delays to access inpatient or psychiatric care.

The phased implementation outlined in Item 6, with full implementation of the expanded definition of gravely definition to go live by January 1, 2025, will allow impacted entities and stakeholders to establish coordinated processes, expand networks and access to care, supplement County staff capacity, create standardized policies and communications protocols, and create pathways for individuals to be connected with the care they need.

We applaud Chair Vargas's proposal and stand ready to work with the County and all impacted entities on a phased-in implementation of SB 43.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Howard" clearly distinguishable.

Christopher D. Howard
President and CEO
Sharp HealthCare



CAL FIRE Firefighters Local #2881 – 10th District
San Diego County Firefighters
2650 Jamacha Road
El Cajon, CA 92019
Website: L2881sd.org



Support of Implementation of Senate Bill 43 on January 1, 2025

Honorable San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

On October 10, 2023, Governor Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 43, amending the Lanterman-Paris-Short Act. As you are aware, SB 43 significantly expands the definition of the gravely disabled, now including severe substance abuse disorder as a category.

We have a history of support at the National, State and Local level in combatting the behavioral health crisis in America today. Everyday, here in San Diego County, our Firefighters responded to emergencies in which they often encountered individuals in a behavioral health crisis. The number of these incidents has been on a steady increase for several years.

CAL FIRE Firefighters Local 2881, representing the Professional Firefighters of CAL FIRE San Diego and the San Diego County Fire Protection District, supports the implementation of Senate Bill 43 and asks that the Board defer the implementation until January 1, 2025.

This is in alignment of the text within the bill which states **“The bill would authorize counties to defer implementation of these provisions to January 1, 2026, as specified.”**

We believe that implementation on January 1, 2025, would allow for all stakeholders to convene and develop a plan not only to prepare for implementation, but to ensure our first responders have the resources needed as the behavioral health system continues overhauled in a forward leaning manner.

We are committed and proud to be your San Diego County Firefighters, we ask for your support on this.

Thank You for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Walker".

Patrick D. Walker
10th District Vice President
CAL FIRE Firefighters Local 2881
San Diego County Firefighters



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Post Office Box 939062 • San Diego, California 92193-9062



Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff

November 30, 2023

Chairwoman Nora Vargas
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, CA, 92101

Dear Chairwoman Vargas,

On December 5, 2023, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors will take action on your Board Letter, Item 6, *Adopt Resolution to Guide Implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 43 and Establish a Multisectoral Planning Process to Guide Implementation*. I am in support of the recommendation to defer implementation of the changes made by Senate Bill 43 (Eggman) Behavioral Health. Implementation of Senate Bill 43, by January 1, 2024 is an unrealistic timeline to safely, and thoughtfully put the appropriate infrastructure, training, and staff in place to navigate a law where the requirement is identifying persons with severe substance use disorder.

We all recognize the need to better care for individuals who are unable to care for themselves. This approach could have value in realizing this goal.

My concern is that for an individual to meet the criteria for "severe substance-use disorder" under the statutory amendment, the individual must have a *diagnosed* substance-related disorder that meets diagnostic criteria of "severe" as defined in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Although an individual might appear to be under the influence or appear to have a substance use disorder, San Diego County does not currently have a system in place for law enforcement to verify that an individual has been diagnosed by a medical or mental health professional with a severe substance use disorder. Without such a system, law enforcement encountering an individual in the field will be unable to effectively verify if the individual has such a diagnosis.

More work needs to be done to put a safe, efficient, and effective system into place, so law enforcement has the necessary resources to ensure that only those individuals who have been diagnosed with a severe substance-use disorder are properly detained as gravely disabled under the statutory amendments.

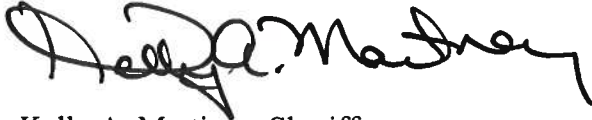
There is a real potential for risk and confusion regarding whether the individual encountered in the field qualifies under the statute. There is also potential for long delays for already short-staffed law enforcement who could be tied up for hours with an individual while attempting to verify diagnoses and in navigating this process.

Keeping the Peace Since 1850

November 30, 2023

Therefore, I recommend more review of the provisions of the law, convening of stakeholders, including the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, and the development of appropriate education and processes with all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly A. Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kelly" being more prominent and the last name "Martinez" following in a similar style.

Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff



City of Imperial Beach, California

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

825 Imperial Beach Blvd., Imperial Beach, CA 91932 Tel: (619) 423-8303 Fax: (619) 628-1395

December 04, 2024

Honorable Nora Vargas
Chair, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, Ca, 92101

Subject: Letter of Support for the Implementation of SB 43

Dear Chairwoman Vargas and Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed resolution to implement Senate Bill 43 (SB 43) on January 1, 2025, and to commend the County of San Diego for its dedication to prioritize the behavioral health needs of our community. The County of San Diego has been leading the efforts in California to overhaul the behavioral health continuum of care and has taken a proactive stance in implementing innovative programs such as the CARE Act, which was designed to address the needs of those suffering from untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders.

The recent passage of SB 43, signed into law by Governor Newsom, marks a pivotal moment in addressing the complex challenges associated with involuntary commitment under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS Act). The amendments introduced by SB 43, particularly the expansion of the definition of "gravely disabled" to include severe substance use disorder (SUD), represent a crucial step forward in ensuring that individuals facing serious behavioral health challenges receive the care and support they need.

Just like the implementation of the CARE Act, it is crucial that the County of San Diego bring stakeholders comprising of the County's Behavioral Health Services, service providers, community members, local municipalities, and other stakeholders needed to develop the implementation of SB 43 to identify the infrastructure needs for successful implementation. The County's dedication to engaging the broader community in this multi-sectoral planning process is commendable. By involving stakeholders at every level, the County can ensure that the implementation of SB 43 is comprehensive, responsive, and aligned with the diverse needs of the community it serves.

The adoption of this resolution is a significant stride towards creating a more compassionate and effective behavioral health system in the County of San Diego. I appreciate the Chairwoman and Board of Supervisors leadership and their commitment to the well-being of our community members.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working alongside the County of San Diego to ensure the successful implementation of SB 43 and support the County's continued efforts in transforming behavioral health services.

Sincerely,

Paloma Aguirre
Mayor of Imperial Beach

From: [Potter, Andrew](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: GQA Letter Opposing Delay of SB 43
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:17:28 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[SB43 implementation GQA.pdf](#)

From: Michael Trimble <michael@gaslamp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:13 AM
To: Lawson-Remer, Terra <Terra.Lawson-Remer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Vargas, Nora (BOS) <Nora.Vargas@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Anderson, Joel <Joel.Anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Potter, Andrew <Andrew.Potter@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Desmond, Jim <Jim.Desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Cc: Garcia, Denice <Denice.Garcia@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Sleeper, Maggie <Maggie.Sleeper@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Elledge, Meghan <Meghan.Elledge@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Gretler, Darren M <Darren.Gretler@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Robbins-Meyer, Helen <Helen.Robbins-Meyer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; McDonald, Eric <Eric.McDonald@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Granda, Adrian <adgranda@sanidiego.gov>; Carlos Beccera - Parq <cb@parqsd.com>
Subject: [External] GQA Letter Opposing Delay of SB 43

Dear County Supervisors:

The Gaslamp Quarter Association and its membership would like to express our collective urgency regarding the swift implementation of Senate Bill 43 (SB 43). Our plea is for the County of San Diego to enact SB 43 on its scheduled start date of January 1, 2024, rather than deferring it to January 1, 2025. Attached is our letter for the record. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best regards,

Michael

Michael Trimble
Executive Director
Gaslamp Quarter Association®
614 Fifth Avenue, Suite E | San Diego, CA | 92101
office (619) 233-5227 | fax (619) 233-4693 cell (760) 807-2525
michael@gaslamp.org
gaslamp.org



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[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[SB43 implementation GQA.pdf](#)

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Cc: Garcia, Denice <Denice.Garcia@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Sleeper, Maggie <Maggie.Sleeper@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Elledge, Meghan <Meghan.Elledge@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Gretler, Darren M <Darren.Gretler@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Robbins-Meyer, Helen <Helen.Robbins-Meyer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; McDonald, Eric <Eric.McDonald@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Granda, Adrian <adgranda@sanidiego.gov>; Carlos Beccera - Parq <cb@parqsd.com>
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Michael

Michael Trimble
Executive Director
Gaslamp Quarter Association®
614 Fifth Avenue, Suite E | San Diego, CA | 92101
office (619) 233-5227 | fax (619) 233-4693 cell (760) 807-2525
michael@gaslamp.org
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Cc: Garcia, Denice <Denice.Garcia@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Sleeper, Maggie <Maggie.Sleeper@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Elledge, Meghan <Meghan.Elledge@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Gretler, Darren M <Darren.Gretler@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Robbins-Meyer, Helen <Helen.Robbins-Meyer@sdcounty.ca.gov>; McDonald, Eric <Eric.McDonald@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Granda, Adrian <adgranda@sanidiego.gov>; Carlos Beccera - Parq <cb@parqsd.com>
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Best regards,

Michael

Michael Trimble
Executive Director
Gaslamp Quarter Association®
614 Fifth Avenue, Suite E | San Diego, CA | 92101
office (619) 233-5227 | fax (619) 233-4693 cell (760) 807-2525
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December 4, 2023

Honorable Chair Nora Vargas
Board of Supervisors
San Diego County
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Opposition to Delay of SB 43 to January 1, 2025

The Gaslamp Quarter Association and its membership would like to express our collective urgency regarding the swift implementation of Senate Bill 43 (SB 43). Our plea is for the County of San Diego to enact SB 43 on its scheduled start date of January 1, 2024, rather than deferring it to January 1, 2025.

This pivotal legislation, enacted earlier this year, marks a significant update to the State's conservatorship laws, offering a lifeline to individuals grappling with severe substance use disorders and those unable to manage their basic personal safety or medical needs. SB 43 is instrumental in facilitating the delivery of critical public safety and health services to the most vulnerable members of our community, thereby promoting safer neighborhoods and crucially connecting those with severe behavioral health challenges to essential treatment.

While the law allows for a delay in implementation until 2026, our neighborhood is currently grappling with an unacceptable behavioral health crisis that impacts us daily. Postponing implementation not only jeopardizes lives but also represents a failure on the part of the County to provide essential mental health services to those who need it most.

Our business owners, residents and visitors keenly feel the repercussions of our flawed behavioral health system, and they deserve proactive efforts to implement tools like SB 43 at the earliest opportunity. These individuals are integral members of our community – our neighbors, friends, and colleagues – entitled to the care that counties and hospitals are funded to provide. We cannot stand by and subject them to repeated short-term holds for another year. Our first responders, drawn from across the region, bear the brunt of this broken system daily, leading to longer response times that inevitably impact the well-being of our residents.

In light of these pressing issues, we implore the County not to delay the implementation of SB 43. We urge collaborative efforts with cities, public safety agencies, and health partners to swiftly expand services for those in greatest need. Our community is relying on us to take decisive action

in addressing the challenges of mental health, addiction, and homelessness. We look forward to continued cooperation in navigating these challenges together.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Trimble". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Trimble
Executive Director
Gaslamp Quarter Association

CC: Vice Chair Terra Lawson-Remer
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond
Supervisor Elect Monica Montgomery Steppe
Helen Robbins Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Eric McDonald, Interim Agency Director
Carlos Becerra, Chair, Gaslamp Quarter Association