

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024, 9:00 AM**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, ROOM 310  
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Order Of Business

- A. REGULAR SESSION: Meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

PRESENT: Supervisors Nora Vargas, Chair; Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice-Chair; Joel Anderson; Monica Montgomery Steppe; Jim Desmond; also, Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

- B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Supervisor, if applicable.
- C. Invocation was led by Reverend Marcus Lohrmann.
- D. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jasmin Taylor.
- E. Presentations or Announcement of Proclamations and Awards:

Chairwoman Nora Vargas and Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe presented a proclamation declaring August 27, 2024, to be San Diego County Black Chamber of Commerce Day throughout the County of San Diego.

Supervisor Joel Anderson presented a proclamation declaring August 27, 2024, to be Jacumba Hot Springs Hotel and We Are Humankind Day throughout the County of San Diego.

Supervisor Jim Desmond presented a proclamation declaring August 27, 2024, to be The Kawanis Club of Escondido-Hidden Valley Day throughout the County of San Diego.

Chairwoman Nora Vargas presented a proclamation declaring August 27, 2024, to be Commission on the Status of Women and Girls Appreciation Day throughout the County of San Diego.

Vice-Chair Terra Lawson-Remer presented a proclamation declaring August 27, 2024, to be Librarians and Library Staff Day throughout the County of San Diego.

Vice-Chair Terra Lawson-Remer and Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe presented a proclamation declaring the month of August 2024, to be California Schools Voluntary Employees Benefits Association (VEBA) National Wellness Month throughout the County of San Diego.

- F. Non-Agenda Public Communication: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Board on any subject matter within the Board’s jurisdiction but not an item on today’s agenda.
- G. Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of July 16, 2024.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors approved the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the Regular meeting of July 16, 2024.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

- H. Consent Calendar
- I. Discussion Items
- J. Board Member Committee Updates. This is an opportunity for Members of the Board to provide informational updates on their committee assignments. No action may be taken.

NOTICE: THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ITEMS INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COUNTY STAFF DO NOT LIMIT ACTIONS THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT RELY UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BOARD LETTER AS DETERMINATIVE OF THE ACTION THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ON A PARTICULAR MATTER.

**Board of Supervisors' Agenda Items**

Category	#	Subject
Public Safety	1.	SHERIFF - REQUEST FOR SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENTS OF TOXICOLOGY AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TECHNOLOGY FROM GERSTEL AND AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES
	2.	SHERIFF - REQUEST FOR AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITIES OF CARLSBAD, EL CAJON, ESCONDIDO, AND SAN DIEGO FOR CALIFORNIA IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM SUPPORT
Health and Human Services	3.	AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF HIV SERVICES GRANT FUNDING AND APPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
	4.	AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION AND AN INTERIM CONTRACT WITH TRADITIONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOR MEDICAL SERVICES GROUP SERVICES
Financial and General Government	5.	SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 36: THE HOMELESSNESS, DRUG ADDICTION, AND THEFT REDUCTION ACT

	6.	AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS
	7.	INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENTIALS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY AS A PART OF COMPENSATION ANALYSIS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES
	8.	GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF THIRD AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY, 3609 OCEAN RANCH BOULEVARD, OCEANSIDE, AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
	9.	ORDINANCES AMENDING THE COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION AND AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (8/27/24 - First Reading; 9/10/24 - Second Reading, unless the ordinance is modified on second reading)
	10.	RESPONSE TO 2023-2024 GRAND JURY REPORTS
	11.	APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS
	12.	COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED
Public Safety	13.	RECEIVE REPORTS DETAILING A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF THE COUNTY'S BASE STATION HOSPITALS AND TRAUMA CENTER CATCHMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS, AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO COORDINATE WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO JOINTLY DEVELOP AND PILOT CHANGES FROM THE REPORTS
Financial and General Government	14.	RECEIVE THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HOUSING BLUEPRINT AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
	15.	ESTABLISHING AN UNSAFE CAMPING ORDINANCE TO PREVENT WILDFIRE HAZARDS AND ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITIES
	16.	REASSESSING ACTIONS RELATED TO THE COMPASSIONATE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS AND PATHWAYS TO HOUSING FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN EAST COUNTY IN LIGHT OF FORTHCOMING ENTERPRISE-WIDE ASSESSMENT OF COUNTY PROGRAMS ON HOMELESSNESS
Health and Human Services	17.	DEVELOPMENT OF A HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH AND SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE

Land Use and Environment	18.	PROTECT THE FREEDOM OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY RESIDENTS TO READ “CHALLENGED & BANNED BOOKS” AT THEIR LOCAL COUNTY LIBRARIES
Financial and General Government	19.	AN ORDINANCE TO ADD CHAPTER 27 TO DIVISION 1 BUSINESS REGULATIONS, OF TITLE 2 LICENSES, BUSINESS REGULATIONS, AND BUSINESS TAXES OF THE COUNTY CODE OF REGULATORY ORDINANCES RELATING TO PRIVATE EMPLOYERS’ USE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY IN EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS (8/27/24 - First Reading; 9/10/24- Second Reading unless ordinance is modified on second reading)
	20.	NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING (TEFRA): ISSUANCE OF REVENUE OBLIGATIONS BY THE CALIFORNIA ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTHCARE AND/OR A SUCCESSOR ENTITY IN AN AGGREGATE MAXIMUM STATED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000,000
	21.	A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS’ 2024 REPARATIONS LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE
	22.	ENHANCING EQUITY AND COMMUNITY STRENGTH THROUGH PROCUREMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
	23.	SUPPORTING SAN DIEGO’S SCHOOLS WITH SOLUTIONS TO THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AND SMARTPHONE ACCESS DURING SCHOOL HOURS
Closed Session	24.	CLOSED SESSION
Public Communication	25.	NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

1. **SUBJECT: SHERIFF - REQUEST FOR SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENTS OF TOXICOLOGY AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TECHNOLOGY FROM GERSTEL AND AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The ability for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Regional Crime Laboratory (Crime Lab) to perform toxicology analysis is vital to the County of San Diego. Much of the equipment procured by the Crime Lab to perform toxicology analysis is solely manufactured by Agilent. The items the Crime Lab is seeking to procure for toxicology will be procured from GERSTEL and manufactured by both GERSTEL and Agilent Technologies. This procurement package containing an Agilent Gas Chromatograph 8890 (GC-MS) and a GERSTEL Multi-Purpose Sampler (MPS) robotic sampler is a collaboration between the two companies, GERSTEL and Agilent Technologies, and is only available through GERSTEL. GERSTEL is the only vendor that can configure and deliver such a system encompassing the necessary analytical sample preparation and introduction capabilities with complete software control of the GERSTEL and Agilent components. The Agilent GC-MS with Gerstel MPS robotic sampler will allow the Crime Lab's Forensic Toxicology Section to advance their testing for volatile compounds to ensure accurate and specific chemical identification. These systems will also allow the Crime Lab to expand volatile testing to commonly used inhalant drugs as recommended by the National Safety Council, rather than send samples that need inhalant testing to a third-party laboratory at an additional cost. This will be the first ever GERSTEL system for the Crime Lab.

The Crime Lab is also seeking to purchase another Agilent 8890 Gas Chromatography System from Agilent Technologies, which is an analytical instrument that combines features of gas-chromatography and mass-spectrometry to identify various substances within a certain test sample. The Crime Lab's Controlled Substances Unit currently has three Agilent Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) instruments used to identify various drugs within a given sample. However, two of the three instruments are no longer supported under the manufacturer's maintenance contracts, as they are from the early 2000's and have since been replaced with newer models. These instruments will also no longer work with the upgraded network technology currently being implemented in the Crime Lab, such as the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). To ensure that the Controlled Substances Section is still able to process more than 5,000 items a year, one additional GC-MS is needed, for a total of two.

Today's actions request the Board of Supervisors to approve two single source procurements based on standardization where the procurement of goods from these particular vendors are beneficial for reasons including maintenance, repair, training, and interoperability. The Crime Lab currently has GC-MS instruments from Agilent Technologies, therefore, continuing with both GERSTEL and Agilent Technologies ensures absolute compatibility with existing instruments and software.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **SHERIFF**

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with GERSTEL and subject to successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contracts for toxicology analysis technology for up to one year and four one-year option periods and an additional six months, if needed, and to amend the contracts as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding, subject to the approval of the Sheriff.
2. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with Agilent Technologies, and subject to successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contracts for controlled substances analysis technology for up to one year and four one-year option periods and an additional six months, if needed, and to amend the contracts as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding, subject to the approval of the Sheriff.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Identification of people convicted of crimes is crucial in the criminal justice process to deliver accountability and bring justice and healing to victims. Standardization of tools and analysis is critical for over 30 law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to ensure a fair and equitable justice system in both the defense and prosecution of crimes. Due to the uniqueness of sample preparation and delivery of analysis, standardizing equipment at the Crime Lab ensures consistency and that the highest quality service is provided to the County and other criminal justice agencies.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions to single source with GERSTEL and Agilent Technologies supports the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access for victims of crimes and those who may have been wrongfully accused of a crime. Considering the regional support the Regional Crime Laboratory's forensic science services provide to law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in San Diego County, it is necessary to obtain equipment that ensures a standardized and validated process.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Department. If approved, this request will result in estimated one-time costs of \$552,359 to GERSTEL and approximately \$153,414 to Agilent Technologies. The funding sources are the 2023-25 CHP Toxicology Grant (\$550,773) and Asset Forfeiture Fund (\$155,000). There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

2. **SUBJECT: SHERIFF - REQUEST FOR AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITIES OF CARLSBAD, EL CAJON, ESCONDIDO, AND SAN DIEGO FOR CALIFORNIA IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM SUPPORT (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The California Identification System/Remote Access Network (Cal-ID/RAN) is a statewide system that provides local law enforcement agencies with direct access to local, state, and federal automated fingerprint, palm print, photo systems and databases. This statewide system allows for the rapid identification of persons booked into detention facilities and latent prints lifted from crime scenes.

Since 2007, the San Diego County Cal-ID/RAN Board has served as a regional policy and advisory board responsible for making recommendations for a program to employ staff and purchase equipment for crime laboratories across the region to support the identification of suspects. The Sheriff's Department serves as San Diego County's Cal-ID/RAN administrator. The County of San Diego's current agreements for Cal-ID support positions with the cities of El Cajon, Escondido, and San Diego will expire on June 30, 2025. To ensure the continued success of the program, there is a need to continue to provide funding for staff at the El Cajon, Escondido, and San Diego Police Departments as well as equipment and other Cal-ID/RAN Board approved items at the Carlsbad Police Department.

Today's actions request the Board of Supervisors (Board) to authorize agreements between the County of San Diego by and through the Sheriff's Department and the cities of Carlsbad, El Cajon, Escondido, and San Diego to provide annual funding from the Sheriff Fingerprint ID Trust Fund to the four cities for Cal-ID support positions and equipment. This funding comes from the collection of a \$2 fee for every vehicle registered in San Diego County by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The term of the agreement for equipment is from October 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 with optional annual renewals up to a maximum of four additional years through June 30, 2029. The term of the agreements for positions is from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with optional annual renewals up to a maximum of four additional years through June 30, 2030.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)****SHERIFF**

1. Authorize the Sheriff's Department (Sheriff) to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City of Carlsbad to provide funding for Cal-ID/RAN Board approved equipment, training, and certification based on revenue from the Sheriff Fingerprint ID Trust Fund for the period of October 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 with optional annual renewals, with the option to renew being at the Sheriff's discretion, up to a maximum of

four additional years through June 30, 2029, and to amend the MOA as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding. The estimated funding for the initial term is \$22,025 to include \$17,025 for a fingerprint development chamber and \$5,000 for training. Funding for option years will be based on requests for equipment, training, and certification to enhance the City of Carlsbad's capacity to provide fingerprint identification.

2. Authorize the Sheriff to execute a MOA with the City of El Cajon to provide an estimated \$131,721 in annual funding for one full-time Forensic Latent Print Examiner position based on revenue from the Sheriff Fingerprint ID Trust Fund for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with optional annual renewals, with the option to renew being at the Sheriff's discretion, up to a maximum of four additional years through June 30, 2030, and to amend the MOA as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding.
3. Authorize the Sheriff to execute a MOA with the City of Escondido to provide an estimated \$275,032 (\$137,516 per position) in annual funding for two full-time Latent Print Specialist positions based on revenue from the Sheriff Fingerprint ID Trust Fund for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with optional annual renewals, with the option to renew being at the Sheriff's discretion, up to a maximum of four additional years through June 30, 2030, and to amend the MOA as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding.
4. Authorize the Sheriff to execute a MOA with the City of San Diego to provide an estimated \$256,000 (\$128,000 per position) in annual funding for two full-time Latent Print Examiner Aide positions based on revenue from the Sheriff Fingerprint ID Trust Fund for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with optional annual renewals, with the option to renew being at the Sheriff's discretion, up to a maximum of four additional years through June 30, 2030, and to amend the MOA as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Offender identification is crucial in the criminal justice process to deliver offender accountability and bring justice and healing to victims. Qualified Latent Print Examiners/Specialists demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of friction ridge physiology and morphology, terminology, detection, recovery, photography, preservation, enhancement, analysis, comparison, documentation and reporting of latent print evidence. This level of expertise in conjunction with the necessary equipment is critical in supporting the San Diego County California Identification System program. Fingerprint identification and forensic evidence handling are key components to identifying individuals involved in crimes and exonerating the innocent. The positions for El Cajon, Escondido, and San Diego ensure that these critical components of criminal investigations are completed.



## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions to authorize agreements with the cities of Carlsbad, El Cajon, Escondido, and San Diego support the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access for victims of crimes and those that may have wrongfully been accused in a crime. The California Identification System program requires both Latent Print Examiners/Specialists and equipment to ensure that accurate identification is conducted, a critical component of serving justice and holding the responsible parties accountable for their actions.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

If approved, the equipment agreement with the City of Carlsbad will result in Fiscal Year 2024-25 estimated costs and revenue of \$22,025 for fingerprint development chamber (\$17,025) and training (\$5,000). Costs and revenue for four optional annual renewals will be determined and approved by California Identification System/Remote Access Network (Cal-ID/RAN) Board and included in future Operational Plans for the Sheriff's Department. The funding source is the

Sheriff Fingerprint ID Trust Fund. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

If approved, costs and revenue estimated at \$662,753 for agreements to fund positions supporting the cities of El Cajon, Escondido, and San Diego will be included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Department. As needed annual increases for up to four additional years, through June 30, 2030, will be included in future Operational Plans for the Sheriff's Department. The funding source is the Sheriff Fingerprint ID Trust Fund. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

3. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF HIV SERVICES GRANT FUNDING AND APPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

## **OVERVIEW**

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has authorized grants and agreements with the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide care and treatment services to persons living with HIV for over three decades. These funding sources include the *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 (RWTEA) Part A*, the *RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative*, and the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A plan for America- Ryan White HIV/ AIDS Program Parts A and B*.

*Ryan White HIV/ AIDS Treatment Extension Act (RWTEA) Part A and RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative Funding*

Awarded annually, the RWTEA Part A and the RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative comprise the single largest federal funding source for HIV services received by the County of San Diego (County). The County received notice of a grant award on May 15, 2024, by HRSA. The RWTEA Part A funding is \$11,313,642 and the RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative funding is \$784,859, for a total of \$12,098,501 for the period of March 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025. This funding will continue to support medical treatment, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, temporary housing assistance, and other critical services for persons living with HIV.

*Ending the HIV Epidemic Funding*

In 2020, HRSA created a new funding source, *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America - Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B*, in response to the introduction of the federal Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. Initial Board action, April 7, 2020 (6), authorized the acceptance of \$5,000,000 in grant funds and subsequent Board action, November 15, 2022 (7), authorized the acceptance of an additional \$1,667,400 in grant funds. Both initial and subsequent Board action authorized funding through February 28, 2025. On May 14, 2024, the County received notice from HRSA that an additional \$2,559,215 was awarded for the period of March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025 and the County has exceeded the amount authorized in prior Board Actions. This funding supports and is utilized for programs and services related to community engagement and leadership development for persons living with HIV, linkage and retention in HIV care, low barrier medical care, and housing supports.

Today's action requests the Board to approve and authorize acceptance of \$11,313,642, \$784,859, and \$2,559,215, respectively in RWTEA Part A, RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative, and Ending the HIV Epidemic funding to support HIV care and treatment activities.

This item supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished through education, prevention, and intervention to interrupt transmission of disease in the region. This item also supports the County Getting to Zero initiative by planning and allocating resources dedicated to services for residents who are vulnerable to or living with HIV.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grant, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of grant applications and full-cost recovery of grants.
2. Authorize the acceptance of \$11,313,642 and \$784,859 in grant funds from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration for the period of March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025 for Ryan White Part A and Ryan White Part A Minority AIDS Initiative respectively, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services

Agency or designee, to execute all required grant documents, upon receipt, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.

3. Authorize the acceptance of an additional \$2,559,215 in grant funds from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration for the period of March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025 for Ending the HIV Epidemic, and authorize the Agency Director Health and Human Services Agency or designee, to execute all required grant documents, upon receipt, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.
4. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for any additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, to address the prevention, testing, care and treatment needs of those impacted by HIV.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

In San Diego County in 2023, gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men comprise 48% of recent HIV diagnoses and 70% of persons living with HIV. HIV has disproportionately impacted some of San Diego County's most vulnerable residents, who include Black and Hispanic communities, gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. Local surveillance data from 2023 demonstrated that Blacks comprise less than 6% of the county population but comprise 13% of recent HIV diagnoses. Hispanics comprise 35% of the county population yet comprise 53% of recent HIV diagnoses. Because of the disproportionate impacts of HIV among communities of color, community engagement efforts have been utilized to plan and provide services that address issues such as stigma, medical mistrust and access to care.

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services works in partnership with the HIV Planning Group, an official advisory board to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to address the needs of persons living with HIV, particularly those with disproportionate impact, as described above. The HIV Planning Group is comprised of people living with HIV, service providers, subject matter experts, HHSA designees, community members and designees from each supervisorial district. The HIV Planning Group conducts needs assessments of system capacity and capabilities every three years. This includes engaging with different impacted communities through focus groups. These engagement efforts play an impactful role in informing decisions and ensuring resources are effectively and equitably distributed to serve the needs of those most impacted by HIV in San Diego County. The last needs assessment was conducted in 2021 and the results led to service changes as a result of COVID-19, including temporary housing, transportation and food services. The next needs assessment is currently being conducted.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

By increasing capacity and services aimed to prevent, identify, and treat HIV, the proposed action aligns with the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to County services and resources, and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of San Diego residents. Testing and identification of those unaware of their HIV status, and treatment of HIV will improve the overall health of communities and reduce the demand of associated care services, while increasing effectiveness of care providers and lowering operating costs.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

### ***Recommendation #2: Authorize acceptance of Ryan White Treatment Extension Act (RWTEA) Part A and RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative funding***

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$12,268,293 and revenue of \$12,098,501 in FY 2024-25. The funding source for this grant is the United States Health Resources and Services Administration. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$169,792. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the costs. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### ***Recommendation #3: Authorize acceptance of Ending the HIV Epidemic funding***

Funds for this request are partially included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$2,650,793 and revenue of \$2,559,215. The funding source for this grant is the United States Health Resources and Services Administration. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$91,578. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the costs. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

4. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION AND AN INTERIM CONTRACT WITH TRADITIONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOR MEDICAL SERVICES GROUP SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to ensuring a robust continuum of services to meet the needs of individuals with behavioral health conditions in San Diego County. The San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH) is a critical setting within the local behavioral health continuum of care, providing services for some of the region's most vulnerable residents. Care and support for operations at SDCPH is largely provided by County of San Diego (County) staff, including nursing, social work, environmental services, recreational therapy, quality assurance, and other staffing categories. Certain services at the hospital, such as physician staffing and other temporary staffing, are provided via contracted providers.

Today's action requests the Board authorize a competitive solicitation for comprehensive physician staffing services via a medical services group and to authorize an interim contract with Traditions Behavioral Health. Through this interim contract, the medical services group would provide physician staffing, including coverage of clinical and administrative physician functions, during the procurement period. Other categories of staffing would not be impacted.

This item supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by ensuring the critical behavioral health workforce that supports the provision of quality care for underrepresented communities.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, and Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a competitive solicitation for physician staffing services via a medical services group and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contracts for an Initial Term of up to one year, with four 1-year Options, and up to an additional six months, if needed; and to amend the contracts to reflect changes in program, funding or service requirements, subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency.
2. Waive Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, and in accordance with Administrative Code Section 401, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, subject to successful negotiations and a determination of a fair and reasonable price, to award a contract to Traditions Behavioral Health for medical services group services, for an initial term of up to one year, with one 1-year option, and up to an additional six months if needed, subject to the availability of funds; and amend the contract as required in order to reflect changes to services and funding allocations, subject to the approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The vision of the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services is to build a behavioral health services delivery system in which mental health and substance use services are regionally distributed and accessible to all individuals and families who are in need, particularly those vulnerable and traditionally underserved populations. To accomplish this, the County needs a robust and skilled behavioral health workforce. However, there is currently a nationwide, statewide, and local behavioral health worker shortage.

According to the 2022 San Diego Workforce Partnership workforce report, there are approximately 17,000 behavioral health professionals working in San Diego County - 8,000 less than the number needed to meet current and future needs. To meet the behavioral health workforce needs in San Diego County, it is crucial that the County prioritizes actions that both

maintain and grow the local behavioral health workforce. Utilizing a medical services group for physician staffing services will ensure the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital can continue the provision of behavioral health care to the most vulnerable adults with behavioral health needs across San Diego County, including individuals who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, to reduce local health disparities.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's proposed action supports the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to County services and appropriate resource allocation with investments focused on chronically underserved communities and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region. This will be accomplished by ensuring the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital can continue providing critical behavioral health care to individuals with chronic behavioral health conditions, who are historically underserved, and ensure the psychological health and well-being of clients.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of and revenue of \$10.5 million in FY 2024-25 and \$10.9 million in FY 2025-26. The funding source will be existing Realignment and Federal Financial Participation. It is anticipated that reduced utilization of other contracts for staffing services will provide sufficient revenue to cover the costs of this new contract. If further appropriations are determined to be necessary in order to cover projected costs, staff would return to the Board as needed. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

#### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

**5. SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 36: THE HOMELESSNESS, DRUG ADDICTION, AND THEFT REDUCTION ACT (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Whether it's rampant retail theft causing neighborhood store closures and higher prices for working families, or the growing epidemic of fentanyl overdoses, Californians must address these pressing public health and public safety issues. Retail theft not only affects the livelihood of business owners but also disrupts community stability, leading to workplace violence, store closures and increased prices that disproportionately impact low-income families. At the same time, the fentanyl crisis continues to ravage communities, with overdose deaths reaching unprecedented levels and straining our healthcare and emergency response systems. The need for balanced reform is clear: it's on our streets, in our stores, and affecting our communities and families.

Passed in 2014, Proposition 47, the Criminal Sentences, Misdemeanor Penalties, Initiative Statute, expressed the intention to make California's criminal justice system more equitable by expanding opportunities for offenders to be treated at the misdemeanor level. Unfortunately, it also led to a decade of unintended consequences: Repeat, habitual and organized offenders who steal amounts under \$950 and, or repeatedly possess hard drugs such as fentanyl and methamphetamine go without any increased accountability, or incentive to engage in addiction or mental treatment since the consequence is always a citation or misdemeanor. Sadly, there is no dispute that a substantial segment of persons experiencing homelessness suffer from untreated addiction resulting in the staggering data point from our Medical Examiner that this vulnerable population of unhoused individuals has a 117 times higher rate of overdose death, adding to the barriers to prevent and end homelessness.

Supported by over 900,000 signatures, Proposition 36 seeks to provide a balanced reform that preserves options for individuals who want to pursue rehabilitation and diversion, while also providing public safety with tools to hold repeat offenders accountable and incentivize treatment. It also provides accountability for fentanyl dealers by bringing it into the same fold as methamphetamine. Proposition 36 is not a three strikes law nor is it a mandatory state prison law. It maintains judicial discretion needed to allow probation and to order treatment.

It's time for meaningful reforms to our justice system, that ensure our communities are safe. This includes responsible and balanced changes to Proposition 47.

**Proposition 36: The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act will address homelessness, drug addiction, and theft by:**

- Classifying repeat theft as a felony for individuals who steal less than \$950 if they have two or more prior theft related convictions with the option to reduce to a misdemeanor even on the third theft while the fourth conviction remains a felony.
- Allowing stolen property values from multiple thefts to be combined so repeat offenders can be charged with a felony if the total exceeds \$950.
- Authorizing judges to impose an enhanced penalty when an offender steals, damages, or destroys property by participating in organized theft with two or more offenders or by causing losses of \$50,000 or more.
- Adding fentanyl to the list of hard drugs.
- Enabling stricter penalties for dealers whose drug trafficking causes death or serious injury and warns traffickers of potential murder charges if continued drug trafficking results in fatalities similar to the warnings that are given in DUI cases.
- Enacting a new class of crime called a "treatment-mandated felony" where offenders with two prior hard drug possession convictions would be given the option of participating in drug and mental health treatment in lieu of incarceration.
- Allowing offenders who successfully complete drug and mental health treatment to avoid jail time and have the charge fully expunged.

Therefore, we recommend that the Board adopt a resolution in support of Proposition 36: The Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Theft Reduction Act which will be included on the November 5, 2024, statewide ballot.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

##### **SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND, SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY SUMMER STEPHAN**

Adopt the Resolution titled: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FORMALLY EXPRESSING THE COUNTY'S SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 36, THE HOMELESSNESS, DRUG ADDICTION AND THEFT REDUCTION ACT ON THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 STATEWIDE BALLOT.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act seeks to enhance community safety and address critical issues of retail theft, drug addiction, and homelessness, impacting all Californians, particularly marginalized communities. By classifying repeat thefts and organized retail crime as felonies, the measure aims to protect small businesses and working families from economic harm and neighborhood disinvestment. Including fentanyl in the list of hard drugs and imposing stricter penalties on traffickers addresses the overdose crisis, while offering pathways to treatment over incarceration. These reforms balance justice with compassion; ensuring that repeat offenders face appropriate consequences while maintaining the original intent of reducing incarceration for non-violent offenses will help address disparities in the criminal justice system and enhance community safety for all residents.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This proposed action contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of protecting the health and well-being of all San Diego residents. By supporting the proposed reforms to Proposition 47, the County can promote sustainable public safety policies that protect communities while providing opportunities for rehabilitation and reducing recidivism. This balanced approach is essential for creating safer and more resilient neighborhoods throughout San Diego County. Enhancing public safety is of paramount priority for the County.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

The approval and subsequent enactment of The Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Theft Reduction Act ballot measure will help to restore historical protections that have been in place for our business community. By restoring confidence for retailers and others that thefts will be addressed through arrests and prosecutions, regardless of any thresholds, we can protect the business community and may prevent the closure of stores and help stem the exodus of businesses to other states.



**ACTION:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, for the Board of Supervisors to take action as recommended.

*(A substitute motion was introduced.)*

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Officer to work with relevant groups and departments to provide an analysis of how the changes to Proposition 47, through the potential passage of Proposition 36, may impact funding for County services, with a specific focus on behavioral health services, housing and development services, and homelessness-related programs, and return to the Board on October 8, 2024, with a multiple-scenario analysis so the Board can consider taking a position on Proposition 36.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

NOES: Anderson, Desmond

**6. SUBJECT: AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On July 16, 2024 (16), the Board of Supervisors considered this item. The motion to adopt the recommendations failed due to a tie vote, and the Board did not continue the item. Pursuant to Rule 2(g) of the Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure, the item was placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

In May 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an [advisory](#) warning that social media is contributing to our nation's youth mental health crisis. The American Psychological Association (APA) has since also issued a [health advisory](#) examining the connections between social media use and reduced well-being and rising mood disorders, chiefly depression, and anxiety among youth ages 10 to 25 years old.

According to the [Pew Research Center](#), in 2010, when smartphones were becoming mainstream, only about half of teens reported using social media. Today, social media usage is ubiquitous with 95% of teens reporting they use some social media and about a third reporting they use it constantly. The [APA reports](#) that U.S. teens spend an average of five hours every day using the seven most popular social media apps, with Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube accounting for 87% of their social media time.

Since 2010, nearly every [indicator](#) of mental health and psychological well-being among teens and young adults has deteriorated. [San Diego County's Health and Human Services Health Equity Report \(2022\)](#) confirms this alarming trend with youth ages 15 to 24 years of age having the highest burden of depression compared with all other age groups in the County. These youth are also utilizing inpatient treatment services and visiting emergency rooms at a rate two times higher than any other age group for depression and anxiety.

It is in response to these developments that mental health experts are warning habitual social media use is nearing addiction levels and contributing to the youth mental health crisis.

To date, there have been few meaningful changes by the industry and no adoption of federal or state policies curbing the industry's harm to developing minds. As of June 2024, 475 social media lawsuits are pending in multidistrict litigation in the Northern District of California. And, as many as 41 U.S. states, including California's Attorney General Office, have taken direct legal action against one specific company, Meta Platforms, Inc., to hold them accountable for their negligence in ensuring its platforms are safe for minors. With today's item, the County of San Diego would add its voice to underscore the urgent need to enact new, responsible safety standards on all social media platforms in order to mitigate harm to youth and their mental health.

Today's item directs County legal counsel to explore legal actions that would hold social media companies, including but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, and YouTube, accountable for their failure to protect youth mental health and for their purposeful creation of an unreasonably dangerous product that incentivizes addictive behaviors among vulnerable youth.

Just as San Diego County has joined other cities and counties in California to successfully hold opioid painkiller manufacturers and distributors accountable for deceptive marketing and for creating an epidemic of opioid abuse and addiction that killed thousands in San Diego alone, the County should hold social media platforms accountable for their failure to protect vulnerable youth.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

1. Direct the County Counsel, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer, to explore options for initiating, pursuing, and/or joining litigation against social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, Snapchat, and YouTube for their failure to protect youth mental health and regularly report back to the Board in an appropriate manner until litigation is filed and, thereafter as necessary.
2. Adopt a resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL'S CALL FOR WARNING LABELS ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Studies show that certain subpopulations of youth, including females, LGBTQ+, Black and Latinx young people, are more likely to use social media platforms to combat loneliness and/or as a tool to locate mental health or well-being resources. Some of these same groups are experiencing disproportionate rates of poor mental health and suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Today's actions will ensure that the operators of social media platforms are further directed to take action to minimize the harmful aspects of their platforms and to preserve the well-being of young, vulnerable users.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions to hold social media platforms accountable helps to further the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals through its leadership and advocacy to remediate the current online environment in support of youth mental health. It is imperative that the County of San Diego be a pro-active partner in pushing for social media platforms to take seriously the deleterious impacts the current design of their products are having on the mental health of County residents ages 10 to 25 years of age.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 1 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan based on existing staff time in County Counsel funded by General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

There is no fiscal impact associated with Recommendation 2. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, and adopted Resolution No. 24-107, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL'S CALL FOR WARNING LABELS ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe  
NOES: Anderson, Desmond

## **7. SUBJECT: INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENTIALS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY AS A PART OF COMPENSATION ANALYSIS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

## **OVERVIEW**

As one of the region's largest employers, the County of San Diego is recognized as a leader in fostering a dynamic and inclusive work environment and setting a high standard for public sector employment. In recent years, the County has made strong commitments towards implementing forward-thinking policies that advance equity and employee well-being, and that recognize our workforce as the cornerstone to delivering the high-quality services and programs that our communities and residents rely upon.

As part of this approach, in 2021, the County collaborated with employee groups to utilize compensation studies to compare the wages of employee classifications for 25 represented bargaining units and non-represented employees with those in 13 other counties across the state. This compensation analysis was conducted by Koff and Associates and aimed to provide data that could inform discussions and decisions around compensation levels. Compensation studies are crucial for public sector management for ensuring salaries and benefits are set at levels that allow recruitment and retention of talent while promoting transparency and responsible resource management. To address the impact of regional differences in wages, the 2021 compensation studies used a “cost-of-labor” methodology that focuses on what other employers are paying for similar jobs within the region.

According to the UC Berkeley Labor Center, the cost-of-labor methodology has several weaknesses: (1) public sector work is complex with a diversity of occupations and responsibilities that are not easily compared with private sector benchmarks, (2) unlike the private sector, public sector compensation is not based on the market alone, but reflects budget constraints, revenue availability, and labor negotiations, and (3) there is a well-documented lag in public sector compensation based on educational level, compared to counterparts in the private sector, suggesting that cost of labor may not accurately capture public sector salary realities, and (4) the cost-of-labor methodology fails to adequately account for the vast differences in cost-of-living between these regions. The 13 comparator agencies included counties like: Fresno, Kern, and San Bernardino, which are a far cry from the cost of living in San Diego County. According to Zillow, the median rent in Fresno is \$1,345 per month compared to \$3,095 in San Diego - a 230% difference. In fact, San Diego recently took the No. 1 spot on the U.S. News & World Report's list of the Most Expensive Places to Live in the United States, given soaring housing prices, as well as high food, transportation, childcare, and utilities costs across our region.

An emerging practice in compensation studies is to account for these regional differences using a cost-of-living methodology. The cost-of-living accounts for the actual expenses that employees incur, including housing, transportation, healthcare, childcare, broadband, and other necessities. It can also allow for consideration of the differences in cost-of-living faced by different family structures, including but not limited to single-parent households, households with multiple children under five, households supporting people with disabilities, and more.

Choosing cost-of-living rather than cost-of-labor as the comparator in a compensation study is crucial for ensuring equitable and realistic compensation for employees across different regions and supports the County’s recruitment and retention goals. MIT created a Living Wage Calculator as a robust and highly popular tool that has widespread adoption across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The tool features geographically-specific data for housing, food, childcare, health care, housing, transportation, other basic needs - like clothing, personal care items, and broadband, among others - and taxes at the county, metro, and state levels for 12 different family types. This tool provides a data-driven tool to compare cost-of-living differences across 3,143 counties in the United States.

Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to include the MIT Living Wage Calculator as a cost-of-living comparator in the 2024 compensation studies. The scope of this item is limited to the methodological approach to the compensation studies to ensure relevant data is available and does not constrain the County's full range of options as part of any future compensation negotiations with employee groups.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER AND SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include the MIT Living Wage Calculator as a comparator to analyze regional differences for the 2024 compensation studies.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to discuss with the employee groups the application of the various indicators in the MIT living wage calculator to determine the final indicators to be used.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Implementing a cost-of-living analysis for determining county compensation would increase equity by ensuring that all employees are compensated based on the actual expenses they incur in their specific regions. This approach addresses regional disparities in living costs, helping to create a more balanced and just compensation structure that reflects the true economic realities faced by workers.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions ordinance aligns with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by promoting sustainable economic growth for our community. The proposed actions included in this letter provide just and equitable wages.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's actions. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

#### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

**8. SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF THIRD AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY, 3609 OCEAN RANCH BOULEVARD, OCEANSIDE, AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 5)**

**OVERVIEW**

On November 15, 2016 (11), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a lease for space located at 3609 Ocean Ranch Boulevard in Oceanside for use by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). HHSA is currently utilizing this space as the North Coastal Public Health Center. This public health center provides access to preventive health services such as immunizations and education with an emphasis on communicable disease control and maternal child health for families and individuals in North Coastal communities. The lease has been extended through a series of Board approved amendments.

The lease expires on August 31, 2024, and there are no options to extend the term. HHSA has a need to continue operating from this site. Staff from the Department of General Services have negotiated a lease amendment that will extend the term one (1) year and provide three (3) one-year options to further extend the term. Today's request is for Board approval of the amendment.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find that the proposed lease amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15301.
2. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of General Services, to execute the proposed lease amendment for the premises located at 3609 Ocean Ranch Boulevard, Oceanside.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

It is anticipated that the proposed lease amendment for the Health and Human Services Agency will have a positive impact on the community by ensuring access for all through a fully optimized health and social service delivery system.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Implementing effective sustainability objectives is crucial to ensuring safe and healthy communities and contributing to the overall success of the region. The approval of the lease amendment is appropriate as it supports the County's Strategic Initiative of Sustainability to ensure the capability to respond to immediate needs for individuals, families, and the region.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2026 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$267,440 in FY 2024-2025 based on an amendment commencement date of September 1, 2024. The funding sources are existing Realignment and existing General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

9. **SUBJECT: ORDINANCES AMENDING THE COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION AND AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (8/27/24 - First Reading; 9/10/24 - Second Reading, unless the ordinance is modified on second reading) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Compensation Ordinance enacted by the Board of Supervisors establishes procedures for compensating County of San Diego employees. The Department of Human Resources provides recommendations for changes to the Compensation Ordinance based on organizational changes to provide and retain a skilled, adaptable, and diverse workforce. Today's actions reflect the compensation ordinance and administrative code changes to accomplish this goal.

Today's recommendations are for the Board to approve the introduction of the ordinance (first reading) to amend the Compensation Ordinance and the Administrative Code. If the Board takes action as recommended, then on September 10, 2024, staff recommends the Board adopt the ordinances (second reading). If the proposed ordinances are altered on September 10, 2024, then on that date a subsequent meeting date will be selected for the adoption of the ordinances.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**On August 27, 2024:**

1. Approve the introduction of the Ordinances (first reading):  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND  
ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SECTIONS

**If, on August 27, 2024, the Board takes action as recommended in item 1 above, then, on September 10, 2024:**

2. Approve the adoption of the Ordinances (second reading):  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND  
ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SECTIONS

If the proposed ordinance(s) are altered on September 10, 2024, then on that date a subsequent meeting date will be selected for adoption of the ordinance(s).

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Department of Human Resources is committed to ensuring that equity is considered in classification and compensation. Today's recommendations provide amendments to the Compensation Ordinance and Administrative Code that will assist the County of San Diego to provide and retain a skilled, adaptable, and diverse workforce for County departments and enables the County to deliver superior services to the residents and visitors of the County of San Diego.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions amending the Compensation Ordinance and Administrative Code align with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by promoting sustainable economic growth for our community. The proposed actions included in this letter provide just and equitable wages and benefits.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the impacted departments. There are no additional costs associated with the new Chief Financial Officer, Chief Binational Affairs Officer, Chief People Officer, or CAO Policy Director. The estimated fiscal impact in current and future years is comprised of increases in supplemental pay, including uniform allowance, auto allowance, and various premiums. If approved, this request will result in an ongoing increase in total estimated costs of \$1.0 million in Fiscal Year 2024-25 and \$1.3 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent; and took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinances on September 10, 2024.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

## **10. SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2023-2024 GRAND JURY REPORTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The 2023-2024 San Diego County Grand Jury recently completed its term and filed two reports with recommendations requiring a response from the County.

California Penal Code Section 933(c) requires:

- That the governing body of agencies that are the subject of Grand Jury reports respond in writing to the Findings and Recommendations addressed to such agencies; and
- Elected officials such as the Sheriff respond on behalf of their respective agencies.



Therefore, this is a request for the Board of Supervisors (Board) to review and approve the draft Finding and Recommendation responses prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and authorize the CAO to transmit the responses to the Grand Jury via the Superior Court Presiding Judge. The proposed responses address the recommendations and findings contained in the following two reports and note the recommendations to which the Sheriff will respond separately:

- Cannabis in San Diego - How is it Going?
- Dog Bites in San Diego County

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Approve the proposed responses and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to transmit the responses to the Grand Jury via the Superior Court Presiding Judge.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to submit a copy of the Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review Committee's 2025 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors, no later than December 31, 2025, which provides updates to the County's responses to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury report recommendations.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to review the Grand Jury's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors as stated in the reports listed below, and take any actions that are deemed appropriate based on this review with a report back on the review and any related actions by November 30, 2024.
  - a. Cannabis in San Diego - How is it Going?
  - b. Dog Bites in San Diego County

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Grand Jury is a body of 19 residents selected by the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego under the supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Members of the Grand Jury are charged and sworn to investigate county matters of civil concern and may examine any aspect of county government and city government, including special legislative districts and joint powers agencies, to ensure that the best interests of San Diego County residents are being served.

Today's actions to approve the proposed responses and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to transmit the responses to the Grand Jury continues the County's commitment to transparency, open government, and collaboration across agencies, ensuring that the County continues to function in the best interest of the public it serves.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions support the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of engaging the community in meaningful ways and continually seeking stakeholder input to foster inclusive and sustainable communities. The Grand Jury plays a vital role in providing input on various aspects of County government and its role within the community. This process continues to center the County on the core aspect of Community Engagement within the General Management System.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with Recommendations 1 and 2. Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 3 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the impacted departments based on existing staff time. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

NOES: Desmond

## **11. SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

These appointments are in accordance with applicable Board Policy A-74, "Citizen Participation in County Boards, Commissions and Committees," Board Policy A-77, "Appointments to Fill Vacancies and Cancellation of Election where Insufficient Nominations Filed Prior to Uniform District Election and Citizen Planning Group Election," and Board Policy I -1, "Planning and Sponsor Group Policies and Procedures."

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHAIRWOMAN NORA VARGAS**

Appoint Humberto Gurmilan to the COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, Seat No. 2 for a term to expire January 6, 2025.

Appoint Samhita Ilango to the HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD, Seat No. 21 for a term to expire January 6, 2025.

#### **SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON**

Appoint Diana Griffin to the CREST/DEHESA/GRANITE HILLS/HARBISON CANYON COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, Seat No. 4 for a term to expire January 4, 2027.

#### **VICE CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

Re-appoint Hanna Cliff to the SAN DIEGO COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD, to Seat No. 3, for a term to expire August 27, 2027.

#### **SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

Appoint Donald Romo to the BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (BHAB), Seat No. 18, for a term to expire March 10, 2026.

Appoint Joseph Kleinman to the WARNER SPRINGS SPONSOR GROUP, Seat No. 9 for a term to expire January 4, 2027.

## **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Appoint Summer Elliot to the COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTERING BOARD, from Seat 18 to Seat 6 for a term to expire June 30, 2026.

Re-appoint Tara Izzo to the COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTERING BOARD, Seat No. 15 for a term to expire August 27, 2027.

Appoint Wilford Smith to the COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTERING BOARD, Seat No. 16 for a term to expire August 27, 2027.

Appoint Greg McGuire to the COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTERING BOARD, Seat No. 22 for a term to expire August 27, 2027.

Re-appoint Sebastian Pardo to the COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTERING BOARD, Seat No. 25 for a term to expire August 27, 2027.

Appoint Julie Phillips to the EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE, Seat No. 15 for a term to expire August 27, 2027.

Re-appoint Scott Snyder to the SAN DIEGO COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD, Seat No. 11 for a term to expire August 27, 2027.

Appoint Kelly Motadel to the FIRST 5 COMMISSION, Seat No. 5 for an indefinite term.

Appoint Judith Nurse to the PAST GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE, Seat No. 1 for a term to start September 4, 2024 and end December 31, 2026.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

County government includes standing and special citizen boards, commissions, committees, and task forces formed to advise the Board of Supervisors and County staff on issues and policy and to serve as links to the community. Boards, commissions, and committees provide an inter-relationship between the residents and the government of the County. The nominations in this Board Letter enable the County of San Diego to provide individual residents the opportunity to impart valuable insight and input into the operation of the government.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego has over one hundred boards, commissions, committees, and task forces that serve as voice in the County government. Advisory bodies are an essential role in resident engagement that allow citizens to participate on issues relating to the welfare and quality of life in the County. They are fundamental to the County of San Diego's ability to navigate complex and dynamic policy challenges, are a conduit to the County Bureaucracy, and a broker to community voice. This board letter supports the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal No.1 by "encourage[ing] people and diverse stakeholders to partner and participate in decisions that impact their lives and communities."

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

**12. SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED (DISTRICTS: ALL)****OVERVIEW**

Board Policy A-72, Board of Supervisors Agenda and Related Process, authorizes the Clerk of the Board to prepare a Communications Received for Board of Supervisors' Official Records. Routine informational reports, which need to be brought to the attention of the Board of Supervisors yet not requiring action, are listed on this document. Communications Received documents are on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)****CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Note and file.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT**

This board letter is a list of documents received by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and/or Board of Supervisors from other entities, other county departments, the public, and internal documents presented to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or the Board of Supervisors. This contributes to the overall sustainability of the county by engaging the community in meaningful ways and promote an environment that provides equitable access opportunities for public engagement.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

13. **SUBJECT: RECEIVE REPORTS DETAILING A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF THE COUNTY'S BASE STATION HOSPITALS AND TRAUMA CENTER CATCHMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS, AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO COORDINATE WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO JOINTLY DEVELOP AND PILOT CHANGES FROM THE REPORTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office (County EMS), a division of San Diego County Fire, is the Board of Supervisors-designated Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA), as identified by Board Policy K-12 under California Health and Safety Code 1797.200 and is responsible for ongoing oversight of the region's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. The LEMSA medical director is responsible for the establishment of effective medical direction processes and quality improvement programs, among other critical oversight functions (HSC 1798 (a)). This oversight includes the designation of Base Station Hospitals, Trauma Center Hospitals, and Trauma Catchment Areas. Seven of the 22 emergency department hospitals in the region are also Base Station Hospitals, which provide real-time medical direction to EMS professionals responding to 9-1-1 calls in the field and assist in directing patients to their final destinations. A Trauma Center provides specialized care to patients suffering from significant traumatic injuries. Trauma Center Hospitals vary in their specific capabilities, are identified by level designations, and have defined geographic boundaries known as Trauma Catchment Areas, which determine where paramedics will transport a patient with significant traumatic injuries for specialized trauma care.

On November 17, 2020 (20), and February 9, 2021 (5), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to develop a plan for a comprehensive evaluation of the Base Station Hospital system and Trauma Center Catchment Area Designations. The Base Hospital System was established in 1978 and has not been comprehensively reviewed since its inception. Trauma Center Catchment Area Designations were last updated twenty years ago, and since then there has been significant population growth and traffic pattern changes. Following a competitive procurement process, Public Consulting Group (PCG) was selected in 2022 to perform this comprehensive evaluation to ensure that the region's prehospital EMS system is meeting both resident and workforce needs.

The PCG evaluation reports provides recommendations that would modify and modernize the prehospital and Base Station Hospital system and make incremental updates to the existing Trauma Catchment Area Designations. For Base Station Hospitals, the report conveys opportunities to improve individual patient care and increase efficiencies in the prehospital setting by reducing unnecessary radio calls, instead proposing to rely on pre-approved standing medical orders, leveraging technology, and bolstering the decision-making process in the field. The report also recommends enhancements to provide real-time hospital status and allow coordinated ambulance patient destination management to address emergency department overcrowding, improve access to high-quality and consistent medical direction, and enhance quality assurance and quality improvements (QA/QI) to facilitate a system with the highest standards of emergency medical care. Specific to the Trauma Catchment Area Designation, the consultant's report found that San Diego County has a well-developed trauma care system with

multiple trauma centers designated at various levels to provide comprehensive care for injured patients, but greater collaboration among the leadership of the six Trauma Center Hospitals is needed to address recurring trauma cases, utilizing upgraded technology to determine the most accessible Trauma Center Hospital, and improving the accuracy of the data being collected.

Today's actions include receiving the *Comprehensive Evaluation of the Base Station Hospital System Report* and the *Comprehensive Evaluation of Trauma Center Catchment Area Designations Report*. In addition, today's action directs County staff, in coordination with local stakeholders, to develop and pilot changes to the EMS delivery system. These enhancements will be informed by the recommendations from these reports, and will improve quality assurance and clinical improvement, access to real-time medical direction, and comprehensive, countywide EMS system coordination. A stakeholder driven process can foster a culture of collaboration, transparency, and communication that enhances the quality of care provided to the community. The LEMSA medical director has the statutory authority to implement many of the changes that come out of the stakeholder process. However, staff will return to the Board with any proposals that require action by the Board of Supervisors, and staff will also report back to the Board with an update within the next 12 months.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Receive the *Comprehensive Evaluation of the Base Station Hospital System Report* and the *Comprehensive Evaluation of Trauma Center Catchment Area Designations Report (Reports)*.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), through the Director of San Diego County Fire, or designee, to coordinate with local stakeholders to develop changes to the Emergency Medical Services delivery system that improve patient care, safety, coordination, data gathering, quality assurance, quality improvements, and overall equity in access to emergency care, informed by recommendations from the Reports, and report back to the Board with an update within the next 12 months. Staff will return to the Board with any proposals that require action by the Board of Supervisors.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

A comprehensive evaluation of the region's Base Station Hospital System and Trauma Catchment Areas were conducted with an equity lens, by having diverse voices participate throughout the process, to advance an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system that provides all communities better access to timely and appropriate health services. To ensure that all EMS stakeholders, including the public, were able to provide input for this study, the consultant conducted extensive outreach through surveys and listening sessions. In addition, a survey identified differences in how other California LEMSAs provide these key functions, as compared to the San Diego County EMS system.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's recommendations support the County's Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access to County services, by advancing an emergency medical services system in which all communities have access to timely and appropriate emergency medical services.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact related to today's requests for the Board to receive the *Comprehensive Evaluation of the Base Station Hospital System Report* and the *Comprehensive Evaluation of Trauma Center Catchment Area Designations Report*. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts from county staff in collaboration with community stakeholders based on recommendations from the reports. Staff will return to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval with funding source(s) identified.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

## **14. SUBJECT: RECEIVE THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HOUSING BLUEPRINT AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The San Diego region is facing a severe housing shortage, with rising housing costs making affordable housing unattainable for many residents, including those at risk of homelessness. Despite efforts, housing production rates in the San Diego region have not kept pace with population growth and demand. On December 13, 2022 (30), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) held the Let's Talk Housing Workshop to address this crisis. The workshop resulted in the adoption of the Draft Housing Blueprint, a strategy document to guide the County of San Diego's (County) response. The Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to engage with the community and stakeholders to refine the Draft Housing Blueprint and authorized the selection of a consultant to analyze, formulate, and provide further recommendations. LeSar Development Consultants (LDC) was selected and has been collaborating with County staff, stakeholders, and the community to enhance the Draft Housing Blueprint.

The Housing Blueprint is a broad policy document structured around five essential policy goals, known as the 5 Ps: Promote Equity, Inclusion, and Sustainability; Produce Housing for All; Preserve Vulnerable Housing; Protect Tenants; and Prevent Displacement. These goals focus on addressing the root causes of the housing crisis by developing a comprehensive and equitable housing strategy that includes strategies that are regional in nature and ones specific to the County's responsibilities related to the Housing Authority jurisdiction and land use in unincorporated communities. As a result of community engagement, research and assessments, a set of eight strategies were developed that form the policy priorities of the Housing Blueprint.

These strategies are categorized into two themes: Systems Changes and Programmatic/Policy Changes. Systems Changes strategies are essential for the initial and ongoing implementation of the Housing Blueprint and should be given priority. This is primarily due to the need to identify significant, ongoing funding for the Housing Blueprint implementation, highlighted in Strategy 2 below. The Programmatic/Policy Changes strategies are specific to implementing policies and programs to aligned with the 5 Ps and will be most successful after the System Changes strategies, specifically the first two, are implemented. The Housing Blueprint eight strategies include:

#### Systems Changes

1. Refine the County's Organizational Approach to Housing
2. Create New Funding Sources for Housing
3. Improve Engagement, Transparency, and Access

#### Programmatic/Policy Changes

4. Focus and Streamline Administration of Housing Funding (Subsidy) to Maximize Impact
5. Unlock Land for Sustainable and Resilient Development Opportunities
6. Provide Solutions for Missing Middle-Income Housing Production and Programs
7. Implement Affordable Housing Preservation Strategies
8. Strengthen and Enforce Tenant Protections and Homeless Prevention Efforts

Aligned with each strategy are numerous recommended actions that are intended for the County to prioritize and scale according to available funding, staffing, and other resources. The actions are meant to provide both regional solutions and ones focused on the County's responsibilities for the Housing Authority jurisdiction and land use in the unincorporated area. However, the scope on many of the actions can be adapted for either focus. LDC has proposed timelines for each action which would begin once the item is fully funded. Actions are assigned timelines of immediate term (1-2 years) and medium term (3-5 years). Recommended actions that were not thoroughly assessed by LDC are listed as actions that can be considered for further study, but should not be prioritized over items in the Housing Blueprint. Additionally, each action is designated with an order of magnitude estimate of the staffing and funding required to implement the action. The County will need to further analyze and refine estimated resources and timelines within the context of current and future County resources in order to develop an actionable plan to report back to the board.

The Housing Blueprint underscores the need to focus immediate efforts around identifying significant and sustainable funding to make an impact on the housing affordability crisis. Many of the recommended actions require strong partnerships with communities, stakeholders, and governments to create a collective impact in the region through shared resources and efforts. While actual cost of implementing the actions laid out in the Housing Blueprint requires additional County analysis, LDC estimates that in order to meet the proposed goal of producing 4,100 new, deed-restricted affordable homes over a 5-year period, the County will need to provide developers with \$383 million in gap financing.



Today's action requests the Board find in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) that today's actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, receive the Housing Blueprint and direct the CAO to report back within in the third quarter of Fiscal Year 24/25 with a plan for prioritizing actions for implementation within current and future resource availability to advance the goals and strategies of the County of San Diego Housing Blueprint.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) that today's actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that today's actions may have a significant effect on the environment and is, therefore, exempt from CEQA.
2. Receive the County of San Diego Housing Blueprint Report.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back in Quarter 3 of FY24/25 with a plan for prioritizing actions for implementation within current and future resource availability to advance the goals and strategies of the County of San Diego Housing Blueprint.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

According to the San Diego Association of Governments' Housing Acceleration Program, upwards of 40% of the region's population is housing cost-burdened, defined as spending more than 30% of their income on housing. Rising rents impose financial burdens, limit opportunities for saving, and force individuals and families to make difficult budget tradeoffs. Most homeowners start as renters who then save their way into buying a house, but when rents are high, opportunities to save are low. Furthermore, rising home prices and interest rates have made owning a home infeasible for many. The cumulation of these current events have further disadvantaged vulnerable communities, creating further distress to their quality of life and ability to thrive.

Affordable housing programs contribute to the County's efforts in addressing local housing shortages and increasing access to quality affordable housing. Additionally, affordable housing development contributes to the creation of private sector jobs and economic opportunities in the San Diego region. Units created provide housing for low-income families, seniors, veterans, developmentally disabled individuals, people experiencing homelessness, and other vulnerable populations throughout the affordability period. With rent and home prices increasingly becoming out-of-reach for many in the region, affordable housing is a key component to assist in preventing individuals from becoming homeless while simultaneously helping persons experiencing homelessness become housed. The Housing Blueprint includes a set of Strategies that are intended to form a set of policy priorities for the County with each strategy composed of numerous actions that could be implemented to address the critical shortage of affordable housing, particularly for extremely low- to moderate-income households in disadvantaged communities. The Housing Blueprint will significantly contribute to the County's goals of fostering equitable growth, ensuring just and equitable access to resources, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action to receive the Housing Blueprint aims to strategically enhance housing affordability and availability across the San Diego region, aligning with many of the County's sustainability goals. This initiative will focus on expanding housing access, promoting social equity, and improving overall community health and wellbeing. One of the Housing Blueprint's goals is to promote equity, inclusion, and sustainability. Housing solutions should promote climate-resilient communities, the preservation of open space, and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). This initiative will have a profound impact on communities historically burdened by high housing costs and limited housing options. The Housing Blueprint aims to stabilize these communities by providing affordable, safe, and sustainable housing solutions, thereby reducing economic disparities and enhancing social cohesion. Extensive community engagement, including surveys and consultations with stakeholders, was a key component of the Housing Blueprint. This approach ensures that the initiative reflects the needs and priorities of the community, fostering a sense of belonging and shared responsibility for sustainable development.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

## **15. SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING AN UNSAFE CAMPING ORDINANCE TO PREVENT WILDFIRE HAZARDS AND ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

## **OVERVIEW**

On October 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (Board) voted unanimously to direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to take several actions outlined in a Board Letter titled *Establishing an Unsafe Camping Ordinance in San Diego*. These actions included direction to bring forward to the Board a draft Unsafe Camping Ordinance for its consideration. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide law enforcement with the authority necessary to prohibit and remove illegal encampments, clear improperly stored property on public land, and protect vacant areas, such as the San Diego River corridor and other fire-prone regions, from wildfire hazards and pollution in unincorporated communities.

Following the approval of this Board Letter, major legal and policy actions have been taken on the issue of homelessness, including the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson* and Governor Newsom's Executive Order encouraging local governments to clean up homeless encampments. With the additional clarity provided by these actions, County staff is now moving forward to develop the ordinance as directed by the Board.

The County's unincorporated area is a unique jurisdiction compared to the incorporated cities that have adopted recent unsafe camping bans, and our ordinance must reflect the unique realities of our geography. As San Diego continues to be at high risk for wildfires, there are significant public safety risks posed from illegal encampments in riverbeds and canyons in the unincorporated areas. To date, Cal Fire has responded to 43 wildfires this year, which have burned over 2,300 acres. Other jurisdictions, such as the City of Santee, have enacted ordinances to address the ongoing threat of wildfires along the San Diego River corridor and other areas where encampments are prevalent. Because it is important to ensure that same level of protection for our unincorporated communities, I recommend that the Board reiterate its desire for the Unsafe Camping Ordinance that will be brought before the Board to include similar provisions to ensure that law enforcement officials have the authority and tools they need to help prevent to occurrence of wildfires in high-risk fire areas. This direction will help safeguard our communities from the potential loss of life and property resulting from wildfires.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

##### **SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON**

1. Waive Board Policy A-72 Agenda and Related Process, Section 2.k.ii, which establishes required timelines for review when preparing a Board letter
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to ensure that the draft Unsafe Camping Ordinance brought before the Board includes provisions to address the threat of fires occurring from illegal encampments.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The recommended actions address the unique geographical and socio-economic challenges of the unincorporated areas, mitigating risks like wildfire hazards and environmental degradation that could worsen existing inequalities.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The recommended actions aim to protect fire-prone and environmentally sensitive areas, from the negative impacts of illegal encampments. Additionally, it promotes long-term public safety by creating a framework for responsible land use and enforcement. This approach ensures that the County's natural and community resources are preserved for future generations.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be future fiscal impacts based on recommendations following from today's action. Any such recommendation(s) would return back for consideration and approval by the Board. Upon return by staff, funding for future costs will need to be identified by staff.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

This policy aims to create cleaner, safer public spaces, which can attract more customers and boost local businesses by addressing illegal encampments. The focus on reducing environmental risks such as wildfires make the region more attractive for business, encouraging investment and growth.

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

**16. SUBJECT: REASSESSING ACTIONS RELATED TO THE COMPASSIONATE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS AND PATHWAYS TO HOUSING FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN EAST COUNTY IN LIGHT OF FORTHCOMING ENTERPRISE-WIDE ASSESSMENT OF COUNTY PROGRAMS ON HOMELESSNESS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On October 19, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) voted unanimously to direct County staff to take several actions included in a Board Letter entitled *Compassionate Emergency Solutions and Pathways for People Experiencing Homelessness in East County* to address homelessness. Based on this Board action, staff developed an Implementation Plan to collaborate with developers and community partners to identify suitable locations for emergency shelters and safe lots, create a flexible funding program to overcome housing stability barriers, enhance outreach and case management services, and improve data collection and analysis throughout the County. A key part of this plan was the introduction of emergency shelter concepts, including sleeping cabins, safe parking, and Recreational Vehicle (RV) safe camping, with wrap-around services provided to those utilizing these facilities. These options were identified to provide immediate, compassionate solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness while addressing their long-term needs. These efforts led to the launch of the Magnolia and Bancroft Safe Parking programs in the unincorporated communities of San Diego.

Additionally, the expansion of Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (HSEC) Regional Homeless Services saw an increase in outreach and social worker staffing positions in East County, ensuring more comprehensive support for those in need and the potential to move people into more permanent housing. HSEC also established Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs, a flexible funding program instrumental in giving staff the necessary resources to assist individuals in overcoming obstacles to stable housing.

In March 2024, the Board approved and authorized additional actions, including the design, development, and construction of the Willow RV Senior and Family Parking Project. This project proposed 17 safe RV parking spots for RV owners experiencing homelessness, with on-site case managers to connect participants with needed resources and services, and housing navigation to help them transition to a more permanent housing solution. According to a recent update from HSEC and DGS, total construction costs for the site is estimated to be \$5 million, and annual operating costs to be over \$900,000.

On September 24, 2024, the Board is anticipated to receive the Enterprise-wide Assessment of Homeless Services Report from the Office of Evaluation Performance and Analytics. In this report, staff anticipates the assessments of 48 programs dedicated to preventing, addressing, or eliminating homelessness in the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), the Public Safety Group (PSG), and the Land Use Environmental Group (LUEG). This report will provide valuable information regarding the efficacy of County strategies to date and inform where future investments from the County will have the best impact moving forward.

As a result, I am recommending that County staff finish design and obtain the building permit for Willow RV Family and Senior Parking Project in order to be shovel-ready, and pause the construction phase while evaluating alternative options based on the upcoming program evaluations. Before committing over \$5 million to a site that only serves 17 households at a time, it is essential to review and understand the findings from upstream prevention programs and the cost analysis of existing homeless programs. This pause will allow the Board to make informed decisions based on the anticipated study's results, which may indicate more cost-effective approaches.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to complete design and obtain the building permit, then place Willow RV Family and Senior Parking project on pause pending further analysis.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to review findings of the Enterprise-wide Assessment of Homeless Services Report and report back to the board with recommendations on cost-effective options to optimize its use of available resources to address homelessness.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed pause on the Willow Road RV Senior and Family Parking Project will ensure that the most cost-effective and sustainable solutions are used to address homelessness. This will allow the County to allocate limited resources more efficiently and address the diverse needs of vulnerable populations in a more equitable manner.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

By reevaluating this project, the County ensures that its limited resources are allocated in a manner that maximizes impact and efficiency. This approach allows for a more thoughtful and equitable distribution of services, addressing the diverse needs of vulnerable populations while aligning with the most current legal and governmental guidelines. The pause reflects a strategic, forward-thinking approach that prioritizes long-term solutions and sustainability in the County's efforts to combat homelessness.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

A total of \$4.9 million was set aside in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework to support one-time construction costs associated with Willow Recreational Vehicle Senior and Family Parking Project. Approximately \$0.6 million in costs are anticipated to have been incurred by August 27, 2024, leaving a balance of approximately \$4.3 million available within the ARPA Framework for the construction project. These funds will be held while the project is

paused as staff explore additional options for consideration. There may be fiscal impact associated with recommendations on alternative options for homeless solutions in the region that would be identified in the staff report back and would be subject to future Board actions. ARPA funds must be obligated by the Treasury's deadline of December 31, 2024. At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

By ensuring that limited resources are allocated efficiently, and that the most cost-effective and sustainable solutions are implemented, the County can improve overall community stability and reduce the economic strain associated with homelessness. These efforts will contribute to a healthier, safer environment, which in turn can enhance the business climate by attracting customers, and new opportunities, ultimately fostering economic growth and development.

#### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

NOT PRESENT: Lawson-Remer

**17. SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF A HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH AND SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE (DISTRICT: 4)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

On July 18, 2023, the City of Lemon Grove (Lemon Grove) passed a resolution declaring an emergency shelter crisis. This resolution was in response to the growing number of unhoused people without the ability to obtain shelter and facing a real threat to their health and safety in Lemon Grove. The most recent Point-in-Time Count (PITC) in 2024 identified 111 unsheltered individuals in Lemon Grove. This included 4 youths, 30 seniors, 12 veterans, and 50 chronically homeless individuals. Historically, Lemon Grove led their own homeless outreach efforts with support from the County of San Diego (County) and other partners. However, Lemon Grove is no longer conducting homeless outreach efforts. Unfortunately, there are limited homelessness services available in Lemon Grove for unhoused individuals.

The County's Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities Department (HSEC) currently provides homeless outreach efforts in the unincorporated area, including areas near Lemon Grove. In order to provide greatly needed emergency shelter and other homelessness services to Lemon Grove, the County should establish a pilot program that builds off the success of HSEC's homeless outreach efforts in the unincorporated area. Under HSEC's leadership and in partnership with the City of Lemon Grove and community partners, this pilot program could provide homeless outreach, case management, field access to self-sufficiency public assistance programs (e.g., General Relief, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs), housing navigation, and links to community services and resources. By collaborating with the County's Housing Authority, the

City of Lemon Grove, community-based organizations, non-profits, and faith-based organizations, the pilot program team will be able to deliver streamlined services to individuals and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Lemon Grove.

In addition to expanding the reach of HSEC's homeless outreach efforts to Lemon Grove, other County departments such as Live Well on Wheels, Behavioral Health Services, and the Public Health Nurse Foot Team, as well as other community-based organizations who participate in regular coordinated homeless outreach could play a crucial role in this initiative.

The County has already demonstrated that it is more than capable of expanding its homeless outreach efforts when needed. HSEC currently operates homeless outreach services in the City of Santee through a partnership formed in 2023 between HSEC, the City of Santee, the City of San Diego, and Caltrans. This partnership was made possible through State Encampment Resolution Grant funding. This program provides homeless outreach, emergency housing (i.e., hotel/motel rooms), and a 24-month rental subsidy program for unhoused individuals in the City of Santee.

Today's proposed action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a Pilot Program to expand HSEC homeless outreach services in the City of Lemon Grove. Today's action also directs the Chief Administrative Officer to evaluate the Pilot Program's effectiveness in assisting unhoused people in the City of Lemon Grove.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

##### **SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop and launch a Pilot Program to expand HSEC homeless outreach services in the City of Lemon Grove.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to collect data and assess the Pilot Program's effectiveness in assisting unhoused people in the City of Lemon Grove. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back in 6 months and return back for Board consideration in 12 months with this information.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

San Diego County data consistently shows that homelessness disproportionately impacts BIPOC populations. The 2024 County of San Diego Point-in-Time Count identified 10,605 individuals experiencing unsheltered or sheltered homelessness. 16% of unhoused individuals identified as Black, African, or African American while less than 5% of San Diego County residents identify as Black, African, or African American. Individuals with a disability are also significantly more likely to be unhoused than non-disabled individuals. According to the United States Interagency on Homelessness, nearly 47% of unhoused individuals report having a disability and with seniors being the fastest growing population falling into homelessness in San Diego County, the proportion of unhoused people with a physical and/or intellectual disability is likely to continue rising for the foreseeable future. By implementing this Pilot Program, the County of San Diego will be expanding access to homelessness services to marginalized populations and assisting them in attaining the support they need to secure and retain permanent housing.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

With the adoption of this recommendation, the County of San Diego will support Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to services and resources, and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region. This action will improve access to critical homelessness services, including housing navigation, financial support, employment services, and behavioral healthcare. Access to this array of services will help address the needs of unhoused individuals and improve public health across the region.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). There is no new fiscal impact associated with this recommendation as existing staff and resources within HHSA will be leveraged to align with the proposed pilot. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

- 18. SUBJECT: PROTECT THE FREEDOM OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY RESIDENTS TO READ “CHALLENGED & BANNED BOOKS” AT THEIR LOCAL COUNTY LIBRARIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

## **OVERVIEW**

Over the last four years, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors has stood as a steadfast guardian of our community’s shared values and rights, such as reproductive freedom, declaring racism a public health crisis, and uplifting the LGBTQIA+ community countywide. These actions reflect our collective commitment to equity, justice, and progress.

In recent years, a dangerous trend has emerged across the United States—a calculated effort by certain groups to censor books and suppress diverse voices under the guise of “protecting” society. This escalating movement to ban books poses a direct threat to our fundamental freedoms and undermines the principles of intellectual freedom. The latest challenge we face is an attempt to censor literature, and it is imperative to ensure that all 33 County of San Diego Libraries are safe havens where everyone in our communities can freely access challenged and banned books.

Book bans are not about shielding people from harm, they are about controlling the narrative. Certain groups have increasingly targeted literature that challenges their narrow worldview, particularly focusing on banning books that amplify the voices and experiences of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQIA+ communities. The American Library Association (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom reported a staggering 4,240 unique book titles were targeted for censorship in 2023 alone. Nearly half of these books, 47%, explore



themes central to the lived experiences of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ individuals. This is not a coincidence; it is a concerted effort to erase these voices from our public spaces.

For instance, in Florida, the Lake County School Board banned *And Tango Makes Three*, a story about two male penguins raising a chick, because it depicted a same-sex relationship. Even Florida's own governor, Ron DeSantis, had to backtrack on his book ban policies earlier this year after school districts went too far in removing titles from classrooms. The impact of these bans extends far beyond Florida. In July, Utah banned 13 books from public schools and libraries, including works by beloved author Judy Blume. In Missouri, Tennessee, and other states, similar laws are being passed, effectively restricting the availability of books that challenge their preferred ideologies. The result is a homogenized, sanitized environment where only select viewpoints are deemed acceptable.

San Diego county is not immune to these challenges. In June 2023, City of San Diego Public Library the Rancho Peñasquitos' branch became the target of protests when all LGBTQIA+ books were checked out by individuals threatening to not return them unless the library removed these so-called, "offensive" titles permanently. This act of intimidation is part of a growing trend where certain groups are attempting to impose their narrow worldview on our communities, stifling the free exchange of ideas. The County of San Diego needs to set a strong example for other regions, showcasing our dedication to protecting the freedom to read and safeguarding access to diverse literature in the San Diego County Libraries.

The diversity of ideas presented in literature is essential for fostering empathy, understanding, and progress. When we allow the censorship of books, we risk creating a monolithic society where only select viewpoints are considered acceptable, thereby limiting educational opportunities for discussion and exploration.

To uphold the County of San Diego's commitment to free expression and establish San Diego County as a haven of intellectual freedom, it is imperative to ensure all 33 County of San Diego Libraries are places where people across our communities can easily access "challenged and banned books." From Solana Beach and Encinitas to El Cajon, Alpine and Bonita, every resident deserves the ability to access literature that promotes an open society where critical thinking and diverse perspectives are essential for both personal and community advancement.

Today's item aims to gain the County's official support for California Assembly Bill (AB) 1825 (Muratsuchi), Freedom to Read Act, consistent with Board Policy M-2, and ensure that the County of San Diego is a haven for intellectual freedom. This includes officially acknowledging National Banned Books Week, acquiring digital and hard copies of banned books, such as those listed in the American Library Association's Top 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books: 2010-2019 for all San Diego County Libraries and exploring opportunities for additional funding to enhance public outreach aimed at increasing awareness of access to San Diego County Libraries and its resources.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

1. Direct Chief Administrative Officer to express the County's support for California Assembly Bill (AB) 1825, Freedom to Read Act, consistent with Board Policy M-2.

2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to recognize Banned Book Week at all San Diego County Libraries annually beginning the week of Sept. 22-28, 2024, and enshrine a permanent Banned Book Week at the County of San Diego which would annually recognize and celebrate Banned Book Week with a dedicated display aligning with other national banned book week efforts.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to acquire and make available hard and/or digital copies of banned books, such as those listed in the American Library Association's Top 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books: 2010-2019 to ensure access at each San Diego County Library location.
4. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to explore additional funding opportunities and a public education campaign to increase awareness around banned and culturally inclusive books and library literature.
5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to annually light up the County Administration Center blue, red and orange on the Monday of Banned Books Week.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) reported that of the 4,240 unique book titles targeted for censorship 47% of them were titles representing the voices and lived experiences of LGTBQIA+ and BIPOC individuals. Taking this action would enhance the quality of life of San Diego County residents by ensuring BIPOC and LGTBQIA+ are not underrepresented in our county libraries.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This proposed action supports the County of San Diego Sustainability Goals by actively combatting climate change by including access to digital copies of books and library materials.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operational Plan for the County Library. There will be no net change in General Fund and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

#### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

NOES: Anderson, Desmond

19. **SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE TO ADD CHAPTER 27 TO DIVISION 1 BUSINESS REGULATIONS, OF TITLE 2 LICENSES, BUSINESS REGULATIONS, AND BUSINESS TAXES OF THE COUNTY CODE OF REGULATORY ORDINANCES RELATING TO PRIVATE EMPLOYERS' USE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY IN EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS (8/27/24 - FIRST READING; 9/10/24- SECOND READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On March 12, 2024 (20), the County of San Diego (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to explore the feasibility of establishing a local enforcement mechanism for the California Fair Chance Act through the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) and return to the Board in 120 days with a draft ordinance. The action was included as part of the workplan of an agenda item on the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) program, the County's collaborative focus on actions to increase positive outcomes and reduce incarceration for at-risk and justice-involved individuals who do not pose a public safety threat.

The ATI work plan put into action a previous Board action on October 19, 2021 (3), which directed staff to develop data-driven alternatives to incarceration for people who do not pose a public safety threat. In light of data and community input reflecting high needs and barriers among local justice-involved populations in accessing employment, the work plan included an action item enabling the OLSE to launch employer and job-seeker outreach to increase awareness of the Fair Chance Act (FCA).

In collaboration with community groups and organizations representing business groups who support formerly incarcerated people, OLSE identified efforts the County could take to expand support and reduce the barriers to employment obstacles for people in our region.

Today's request is for the Board to approve the introduction of an ordinance adding Chapter 27 to Title 2 of the County Code of Regulatory Ordinances. If approved, the ordinance will be scheduled for adoption on September 10, 2024. If the proposed ordinance is altered on August 27, 2024, then on that date a subsequent meeting date will be selected for the ordinance's adoption.

Additionally, the ordinance would authorize OLSE to reduce barriers to employment by conducting investigations regarding allegations of violations of the San Diego County Fair Chance Ordinance and providing educational outreach services to businesses in the unincorporated area.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

On August 27, 2024:

1. Approve the introduction of the Ordinance (first reading):  
AN ORDINANCE TO ADD CHAPTER 27 TO DIVISION 1 BUSINESS REGULATIONS, OF TITLE 2 LICENSES, BUSINESS REGULATIONS, AND

**BUSINESS TAXES OF THE COUNTY CODE OF REGULATORY ORDINANCES  
RELATING TO PRIVATE EMPLOYERS' USE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY IN  
EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS**

**If, on August 27, 2024, the Board takes action as recommended on item 1 above, then on September 10, 2024:**

2. Consider and adopt the Ordinance (second reading):  
AN ORDINANCE TO ADD CHAPTER 27 TO DIVISION 1 BUSINESS REGULATIONS, OF TITLE 2 LICENSES, BUSINESS REGULATIONS, AND BUSINESS TAXES OF THE COUNTY CODE OF REGULATORY ORDINANCES RELATING TO PRIVATE EMPLOYERS' USE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY IN EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Establishing a local Fair Chance Ordinance (Ordinance) is a crucial step toward providing justice-involved individuals with fair employment opportunities. By creating a streamlined process for lodging complaints about discriminatory hiring practices, the County demonstrates its commitment to supporting those seeking to reintegrate into the workforce. Nationally and in San Diego County, arrest and incarceration disproportionately impact people of color and those who are low-income, disabled, experiencing homelessness, or have behavioral health needs. For example, San Diego County jail data indicate that Black individuals composed more than 21% of the average daily jail population in 2023, while only 5.6% of San Diego County's overall population are Black, according to 2020 Census data.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action to add Chapter 27 to Title 2 of the County Code of Regulatory Ordinances contributes to many of the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals: engage the community, provide just and equitable access, and protect health and well-being. In terms of sustainability in equity, economy, and health/well-being, it will impact the communities and socio-economic groups historically burdened by wage theft by providing thousands of dollars to make ends meet and possible job transition or period of unemployment and help keep the local economy strong.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 CAO Operational Plan. If approved, this request will result in additional costs and revenue for the implementation of a local Fair Chance Ordinance program. Some funding will include revenue generated from penalties associated with the ordinance. As this program is established, the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement will use existing resources and staff for the outlay of outreach and education related to the Fair Chance Act and the County's ordinance. As the program develops there may be future fiscal impacts to ensure timely response maintains pace with caseload, which staff would bring back to the Board for consideration and approval.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

This Ordinance includes an educational program to provide businesses with the tools needed to adopt fair hiring practices. By participating and engaging with OLSE, businesses will gain valuable insights into the benefits of inclusive hiring practices. Not only does this Ordinance help in reducing recidivism rates by providing opportunities for individuals with criminal records, but it also contributes to fostering workplace diversity, which has been proven to enhance creativity and productivity within companies. By focusing on qualifications and skills rather than past histories, employers can create a more inclusive and equitable work environment that is beneficial to both the employees and the business as a whole.

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, amending the Ordinance as follows: Two revisions to the ordinance were necessary to correct a typographical error. Section 21.2707 subsection c on page 5, line two contains a reference to "section 21.2705" and that should read "section 21.2703." The same revision must be made to the last line of Section 21.2707 subsection c on page 6, the reference to "section 21.2705" should read "section 21.2703." The Board took action to further consider and adopt the amended Ordinance on September 10, 2024.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe  
NOES: Desmond

- 20. SUBJECT: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING (TEFRA):  
ISSUANCE OF REVENUE OBLIGATIONS BY THE CALIFORNIA  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF  
NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTHCARE AND/OR A SUCCESSOR ENTITY  
IN AN AGGREGATE MAXIMUM STATED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT  
NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000,000 (DISTRICTS: 2 AND 5)**

## **OVERVIEW**

The County has received a request from the California Enterprise Development Authority ("CEDA" or "Authority") to conduct a public hearing as required by the Internal Revenue Code and to approve the Authority's issuance of one or more series of tax-exempt and/or taxable revenue obligations in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$8,000,000 (the "Revenue Obligations"), for the benefit of Neighborhood Healthcare (the "Borrower"), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

The Borrower has applied for the financial assistance of the Authority. The proceeds of the Revenue Obligations will be loaned to the Borrower to (1) finance, refinance and/or reimburse the cost of (a) the construction of a parking lot at the real property located at 750 and 760 East Valley Parkway, Escondido, California 92025, with an allocation of Revenue Obligations in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000; (b) the acquisition, construction, installation, furnishing and equipping of improvements to an approximately 13,990 square foot medical office building located at 910 East Ohio Avenue, Escondido, California 92025, with an allocation of Revenue Obligations in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000; (c) the acquisition, construction, installation,

furnishing and equipping of a new two-story 15,000 square foot medical office building at the real property located at 10039 Vine Street, 12539 Laurel Street and 12549 Laurel Street, Lakeside, California 92040, with an allocation of Revenue Obligations in an amount not to exceed \$4,400,000; and (d) the acquisition, construction, installation, furnishing and equipping of improvements to an approximately 18,814 square foot medical office building located at 425 North Date Street, Escondido, California 92025, with an allocation of Revenue Obligations in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 (collectively the “Project”); and (2) paying interest on the Revenue Obligations and certain costs of issuance in connection with the financing of the Project and other related costs.

The Authority is authorized to assist in financing of nonprofit public benefit organizations or for-profit corporations with a public benefit project wishing to issue or reissue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness, including the Borrower. In order to initiate such a financing, the Borrower is asking the County of San Diego, a member jurisdiction in which the Project is located to: (1) conduct a public hearing to satisfy the public approval requirement of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code; and (2) approve the Authority’s issuance of the Revenue Obligations. Although the Authority will be the issuer of the Revenue Obligations for the Borrower, the financing cannot proceed without the approval of one of the applicable legislative bodies.

Today’s recommendations will provide the Authority with the required authorization to pursue its determination to issue the Revenue Obligations on behalf of the Borrower.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, hold a public hearing regarding the financing of the Project.
2. Adopt a Resolution entitled:  
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE CALIFORNIA ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ITS REVENUE OBLIGATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTHCARE AND/OR A SUCCESSOR ENTITY IN AN AGGREGATE MAXIMUM STATED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$8,000,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING, REFINANCING AND/OR REIMBURSING THE COST OF THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF FACILITIES, PROVIDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUCH REVENUE OBLIGATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Authority was established to assist in financing of nonprofit public benefit organizations or for-profit corporations with a public benefit project wishing to issue or reissue revenue obligations. The Revenue Obligations issued will be used to finance, refinance and or reimburse the cost of acquisition, construction, installation, furnishing and equipping of property located at (a) 750 and 760 East Valley Parkway, Escondido, California 92025; (b) 910 East Ohio Avenue, Escondido, California 92025; (c) 10039 Vine Street, 12539 Laurel Street

and 12549 Laurel Street, Lakeside, California 92040; and (d) 425 North Date Street, Escondido, California 92025. These facilities will assist the Borrower with its public benefit mission to improve the overall health and happiness of the communities served by providing quality care to all, regardless of situation or circumstance.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action would result in economic, social, health and wellbeing benefits for the community by allowing the Borrower to continue to provide comprehensive and affordable quality healthcare to diverse and underserved communities. The Borrower operates sixteen health centers to fully cover the gaps in healthcare services throughout the North County. These centers are located in seven cities serving rural, semi-rural, suburban and urban populations in El Cajon (3 centers), Escondido (8 centers), Fallbrook (1 center), Lakeside (1 center), Poway (1 center), San Marcos (1 center), and Valley Center (1 center). In addition, the Borrower operates two fully equipped, mobile clinics which provide both medical and dental services to better serve migrant farm workers and their families as well as schools and others who have significant access barriers. The proposed action will contribute to County of San Diego Sustainability Goal No. 2 by providing just and equitable access to healthcare services through increasing investment in underserved communities of San Diego County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

If approved, the proposal will result in approximately \$991 of unanticipated revenue to be used to reimburse the County for staff time associated with this non-County financing. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

The Borrower will be responsible for the payment of all present and future costs in connection with the financing. The County will incur no obligation of indebtedness as a result of these actions.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors closed the Hearing and took action as recommended, and adopted Resolution No. 24-108, entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE CALIFORNIA ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ITS REVENUE OBLIGATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTHCARE AND/OR A SUCCESSOR ENTITY, IN AN AGGREGATE MAXIMUM STATED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$8,000,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING, REFINANCING AND/OR REIMBURSING THE COST OF ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF FACILITIES, PROVIDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUCH REVENUE OBLIGATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

NOT PRESENT: Lawson-Remer

**21. SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS' 2024 REPARATIONS LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

California's involvement in slavery is an often-overlooked aspect of its history. Although California did not enter the Union as a slave state, slavery did exist within its borders. The Gold Rush era brought an influx of settlers, including slaveholders from the Southern states, leading to the presence of enslaved African Americans in California. Even though the California Constitution of 1849 banned slavery, the state's economy and legal system were intertwined with the broader institution of slavery in the United States through trade, economic ties, and legal precedent.

Even after slavery was legally abolished in 1865, government institutions at all levels continued to enforce segregation and discriminatory practices that marginalized African Americans. This systemic oppression denied them of opportunities for economic advancement, equal education, and access to adequate healthcare. As a result, many African Americans faced enduring hardships that disproportionately affected their socio-economic status and overall well-being.

Assembly Bill 3121 established California's Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans (Reparations Task Force). The Reparations Task Force researched the historical injustices inflicted upon African Americans in California and provided 150 recommendations on how the state should address the enduring impacts of slavery, systemic racism, and discriminatory policies.

After reviewing the Reparations Task Force's recommendations, the California Legislative Black Caucus introduced the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package consisting of 14 bills in the areas of Education (AB 1929, AB 3131), Civil Rights (ACA 7, ACR 135, AB 1815, SB 1050, AB 3089), Criminal Justice Reform (ACA 8, AB 1986, AB 2064, AB 280), Health (AB 1975, SB 1089), and Business (AB 2862).

This Board Letter requests the San Diego County Board of Supervisors approve a resolution to support the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package introduced by the California Legislative Black Caucus.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE**

1. Adopt the resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS' 2024 REPARATIONS LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to express the County's support for the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package consisting of AB 280, AB 1815, AB 1929, AB 1975, AB 1986, AB 2064, AB 2862, AB 3089, ACA 7, ACA 8, ACR 135, SB 1050, and SB 1089, consistent with Board Policy M-2.



## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The 2024 Reparations Legislative Package represents a pivotal step towards equity, justice, and inclusivity. The County of San Diego's support of the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package demonstrates a commitment to rectifying historical injustices and addressing systemic disparities that continue to affect African American communities.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Supporting the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package will further the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by advocating for equity and justice for all San Diegans. Promoting justice and equity for all residents supports long-term social and economic sustainability.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, and adopted Resolution No. 24-109, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS' 2024 REPARATIONS LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

NOES: Anderson

## **22. SUBJECT: ENHANCING EQUITY AND COMMUNITY STRENGTH THROUGH PROCUREMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego (County) recognizes the important role that small businesses, including non-profits, play in our local economy and community fabric. However, barriers such as limited access to contracting opportunities and resources often hinder their full participation in the County's procurement process. Small businesses, particularly those from historically under resourced communities face significant challenges in navigating a somewhat complex government procurement process.

In fact, the County has seen a downward trend in the participation of local small businesses in contracting with the County, from 11.3% in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 to 8.3% in FY 2022-23. The County can encourage local small businesses to participate in the County's procurement process by improving its outreach efforts, providing technical assistance, increasing bond

assistance, and increasing the County’s “local business preference” from 5% to 15%. Doing so could help the County achieve a goal of 25% of annual procurement spending with local small businesses. Having such a lofty goal will encourage the County to really focus on ensuring that more County contracts are accessible to the local small business community and in turn help stimulate economic growth in our region.

Expanding opportunities for local small businesses in County contracts will strengthen our local economy, enhance the inclusivity of our procurement processes, and foster a more dynamic and competitive local marketplace. Local small businesses contribute more directly to the community through job creation and spending compared to out-of-county vendors. Other counties and cities in California have successfully improved their procurement processes and boosted participation by local small businesses. The County can also implement new initiatives in its procurement process to make contracting with the County more accessible to our local small businesses.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include the following as part of the report to the Board as directed by the Board on April 30, 2024 (12):

1. Recommendations to formalize local participation for all County contracts where appropriate, feasible and allowable based on funding requirements and law.
2. An evaluation of the County’s current use of state and federal business certifications and proposed options to improve the County’s method of identifying local small businesses, including non-profits.
3. Recommendations to increase the County’s “local business preference” from 5% to 15%, with the ultimate goal of 25% of annual procurement spend to be with local small businesses.
4. Recommendations to establish a small business advancement policy that will develop and grow a robust community of local small businesses participating in contracts with the County of San Diego.
5. Recommendations for a comprehensive technical assistance program tailored to support local small businesses, including non-profits, in navigating the County of San Diego’s procurement and contracting process.
6. Recommendations, including a proposed funding source, for an insurance and bond assistance program that will help local small businesses, including non-profits, overcome bonding barriers and participate in larger projects with the County of San Diego.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This action seeks to increase opportunities for local small businesses, particularly those from historically under resourced communities by providing more transparency and assistance with the County’s procurement and contracting process.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County has made strides to advance sustainability across its operations by partnering with external vendors to acquire essential goods and services. This strategy has enabled the County to fulfill its mission while maximizing the use of resources. Encouraging local small businesses to participate and compete in the County's procurement and contracting process will result in more cost savings and other benefits for the County.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years at this time.

If approved, staff would explore options for funding these recommendations that will be included in the report to the Board as directed on April 30, 2024 (12). The funding source would likely be Purchasing Internal Service Fund fund balance and/or revenue from client departments through the existing procurement rate structure. There is a potential increase in net General Fund cost for certain client departments, and also may be an increase in staff years that could be recommended at that time. Staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval of any future fiscal and/or staffing impacts.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County has historically encouraged small businesses to participate in County contract opportunities and has recognized the importance of our local business community. By expanding outreach, education, and support programs, the County will further amplify the impact of these efforts. The proposed changes will enhance the ability of local small businesses to participate in the County's procurement process.

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

NOT PRESENT: Lawson-Remer

23. **SUBJECT: SUPPORTING SAN DIEGO'S SCHOOLS WITH SOLUTIONS TO THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AND SMARTPHONE ACCESS DURING SCHOOL HOURS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

## **OVERVIEW**

In schools across San Diego County, the widespread use of smartphones among students raises urgent concerns over its impact on youth mental health and [influence](#) on academic performance. Constant access to messaging apps, social media, and games fosters a pervasive environment of distraction and social pressure, including the escalation of cyberbullying. These dynamics affect students' well-being, creating barriers to positive mental health, emotional resilience, and learning.

In recent months, schools have increasingly expressed concerns about the impact smartphone access and extensive usage are having on the academic and social outcomes of school age youth, especially during hours of instruction. On average, 8 to 12 year olds are [reporting](#) 5 hours worth of screen time per day with teens reporting an average usage of 7.5 hours per day. A recent [study](#) by Common Sense Media found that 97% of teenagers use cell phones during the school day. In 2023, [a study](#) revealed that students received an average of 237 notifications per day, many occurring during school hours. And, one third of K-12 public school teachers [recently reported](#) that smartphones are a major problem for students in their classrooms. The continuous checking for messages, scrolling, watching videos, playing video games, getting into conflicts with peers through texting and social media, and videotaping teachers and fellow students are just a few of the trends reportedly interfering with peer-to-peer connections, academic performance, school culture, and discipline.

In addition to the concerns smartphones present during instruction time, researchers and mental health experts have continued to express growing concerns about the overall effects extensive usage is having on the well-being of school age youth. The [U.S. Surgeon General](#) and the [American Psychological Association](#) have issued health advisories warning about the connection between frequent usage, specifically social media, and rising levels of depression and anxiety among youth. The [Cyberbullying Research Center](#) reports an upward trend in cyberbullying and the Pew Research Center [found](#) 59% of U.S. teens have experienced some form of abusive online behavior. Simultaneously, [the CDC](#) reports that over the past decade, feelings of persistent sadness and hopelessness—as well as suicidal thoughts and behaviors—have increased by 40% among young people. [And, a survey of 1,400 clinicians](#) found that social media was the single biggest driver of mental health issues among their patients. Other studies show a [strong correlation](#) between increased screen time and social media use with worsening youth mental health outcomes including depressive symptoms and higher rates of suicide among adolescents.

The urgency of this issue is underscored by a growing movement among policymakers and educational leaders to limit or ban smartphone usage in schools to mitigate the detrimental effects of unregulated smartphone use on students' mental health and academic performance. Last month, Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest school district in the nation, approved a ban on smartphone and social media use during school hours to curb distractions and improve students' mental well-being. Governor Gavin Newsom has also voiced strong support for measures aimed at curbing excessive smartphone use in schools. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has been working with all 42 school districts in San Diego County to assess their School Wellness Policies to ensure they best promote the health and well-being of students, staff, and the school community, which includes the consideration of smartphone access and usage during instruction time. These and [other initiatives](#) at state and local levels reflect a growing consensus on the need for practical solutions to mitigate the negative impacts of smartphones on young people. However, the reality is that we cannot eliminate phones, but we can help promote smart use. Teaching youth how to use their phones responsibly is crucial, as it empowers them to manage their mental health effectively amidst the pervasive presence of digital technology. By fostering healthy phone habits, we can help young people balance screen time with real-world interactions, thereby enhancing their overall well-being and resilience in a tech-driven world.

In District 3, we are taking swift action to initiate one of these promising solutions by providing grant funds to enable some schools within the district to try lockable smartphone pouches and to test their efficacy in the coming months. This simple product is already popular in the entertainment industry and **rapidly gaining traction** in the educational setting. A key advantage of this approach is the lockable pouches allow students to maintain possession of their phones while still limiting access during instruction time. With this support, some schools in District 3 can begin to observe and evaluate how smartphone policy guardrails can improve learning environments, minimize distractions, and bolster youth mental health in educational settings. Today's Board action will build upon this first step in District 3 by directing the Chief Administrative Officer to collaborate directly with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) to explore ways the County can leverage its extensive resources to support schools and school districts in their efforts to develop and implement solutions that address the unrestricted use of smartphones and the growing youth mental health crisis.

A clerical error occurred during the regular docketing process that resulted in this item not being docketed properly, as planned for the August 27th, 2024 Board Meeting. The requested item must be placed on the August 27 Board Meeting agenda as a delayed vote on the proposed policy would severely limit our County's ability to respond timely to Governor Newsom's urgent request on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for California schools to restrict smartphone usage in classrooms. The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and San Diego County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) are actively exploring opportunities to strengthen the region's response to the youth mental health crisis and the use of smartphones in schools. The timing of this Board Letter and the proposed recommendations are strategically aligned with these efforts to maximize impact for the region, including but not limited to, orienting schools to these issues at the start of the academic year, initiating critical stakeholder engagement, and leveraging the County's extensive resources to support these efforts.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to collaborate with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) to explore ways the County can support schools and school districts in their efforts to develop and implement solutions to address the unrestricted use of smartphones during school instruction hours. The exploration should include a range of options to limit smartphone access, distractions and cyberbullying; training and other ongoing support strategies for teachers and staff administering these options; resources for students and parents to encourage a phone-free school culture and environment, and implementation support as needed and return to the Board by March 31, 2025 with a progress report on the collaboration and status update on the County's plan(s) to provide support to the SDCOE including any fiscal impact(s) associated with the plan(s).
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to explore opportunities to leverage existing work within the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency to support local school district School Wellness Policies with best practices to address youth mental health and smartphone usage.

3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to leverage the Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics (OEPA) to provide technical support, as needed, to the SDCOE in any efforts to evaluate the identified solutions and their impact on student behavior (i.e. discipline, bullying/harassment), social connectedness, mental health outcomes, and academic performance.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions support the social and emotional wellbeing of San Diego's youth throughout the region. By leading this effort and co-creating solutions with local school districts, the County would work with the San Diego County Office of Education to begin to address the negative impacts of smartphones in schools and their contribution to the current youth mental health crisis. The program acknowledges that youth from marginalized communities, including those from low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, and those with disabilities, may face disproportionate mental health challenges exacerbated by social media and smartphone overuse. By implementing school-based solutions, resulting programs can aim to reduce distractions, alleviate social pressures, and foster a more inclusive environment that supports the well-being of all students, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Engaging with community stakeholders, including parents, educators, and mental health professionals, will be essential to the program's success. Input from these groups will be sought to ensure that the program is responsive to the needs and concerns of the diverse communities it serves.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions promote healthy and safe school environments for San Diego's youth. Youth ages 8 to 18 spend a majority of their days in a school setting. With the rise of smartphone access and usage among youth, the County must proactively respond to current research and explore the potential threats created by smartphones in San Diego's schools and the potential opportunities to address and protect youth mental health. The program supports social sustainability by addressing the mental health needs of students, creating a more balanced, focused, and healthy school environment. By mitigating the mental health challenges exacerbated by excessive smartphone use, the program contributes to the overall well-being of students, which is essential for the long-term social sustainability of communities. Healthy, well-adjusted students are more likely to become engaged, productive members of society, furthering the goals of social sustainability.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request to implement recommendations 1 - 2 to engage with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), explore opportunities to leverage existing work within the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), and return with the County's plan(s) to provide support to the SDCOE including any fiscal impact(s) associated with the plan(s) are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. This work will leverage existing resources, forums, and channels available within the HHSA to promote this initial collaborative work. As engagement occurs with partner organizations, additional costs may be identified, which will be included in the return to the Board. At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond  
NOES: Anderson

**24. SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)  
County of San Diego v. McKinsey and Company, Inc.;  
United States District Court, Southern District of California Docket No. 22-cv-01624-TWR-MDD
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)  
Sierra Club v. County of San Diego, et al.;  
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2012-00101054-CU-TT-CTL
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)  
Sierra Club, et al. v. County of San Diego, et al.;  
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2018-00014081-CU-TT-CTL
- D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)  
Golden Door Properties, LLC. v. County of San Diego;  
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2018-00013324-CU-TT-CTL
- E. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)  
California River Watch v. County of San Diego Sanitation District;  
United States District Court, Southern District of California Docket No. 24-cv-01335-JO-AHG
- F. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)  
Martina Rivera Arevalo v. County of San Diego, et al.;  
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2020-00039854-CU-PA-CTL
- G. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)  
Marcus Wesley Boyd v. County of San Diego, et al.;  
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2023-00002923-CU-CR-CTL

H. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)  
Deborah Hooper v. County of San Diego, et al.;  
United States District Court, Southern District of California Docket No.  
07-cv-01647-JAH-KSC

I. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
(Government Code section 54957)  
Title: Chief Probation Officer

**ACTION:**

Noting for the record that Closed Session matters were heard on August 28, 2024; County Counsel reported that for Closed Session, the Board of Supervisors took the following action:

On Item 24A, with all Board members present and voting “AYE,” the Board approved the settlement of a lawsuit entitled In re McKinsey & Co., Inc. National Prescription Opiate Consultant Litigation. The defendant in the lawsuit, McKinsey and Company, is a marketing consultant that provided services to opioid manufacturers. The settlement will result in the payment of \$207 million, split among a large number of parties, including the County of San Diego.

Item 24I was continued to a future meeting.

**25. SUBJECT: NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

Michael Brando spoke to the Board regarding alleged horse neglect on Artesian Road.

Jeffrey Wehner spoke to the Board regarding tiny homes proposed on Troy Street in Lemon Grove.

Kenneth King spoke to the Board regarding tiny homes proposed on Troy Street in Lemon Grove.

Ronald Romeo spoke to the Board regarding voter registration.

Susan Schoeder spoke to the Board regarding a resolution in support of fair elections.

Paul the Bold spoke to the Board regarding the Brown Act and remote participation.

Consuelo spoke to the Board regarding neglect of government actions.

Diane Grace spoke to the Board regarding the negative impacts of flavored tobacco on youth.

Peggy Walker spoke to the Board regarding the negative impacts of legalization of marijuana.

Valerie Kruger spoke to the Board regarding the treatment of Palestinians.



Luke spoke to the Board regarding democracy.

Audra spoke to the Board regarding Chairwoman Vargas' security detail.

Keke Jones spoke to the Board regarding opposition of sleeping cabins on Troy Street in Lemon Grove.

Truth spoke to the Board regarding the Board of Supervisors' actions.

Gambler Hermis spoke to the Board regarding election fraud.

Kevin Stevenson spoke to the Board regarding public speakers not staying on topic.

**ACTION:**

Heard, Referred to the Chief Administrative Officer.

The Board recessed at 8:40 p.m. on August 27, 2024 until 9:00 a.m. on August 28, 2024 and, there being no further business, the Board adjourned at 9:25 a.m. on August 28, 2024, in memory of Jim Wilson, Kim Quaco, Tracy Morgan Hollingworth, Al Alvarado, and Rebecca Taylor.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of San Diego, State of California

Consent: Vizcarra  
Discussion: Zurita

NOTE: This Statement of Proceedings sets forth all actions taken by the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.

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