

# Rolando Park/Redwood Village Community Council Meeting Minutes

## April 8, 2024

### Board members present

Co-Presidents Lynn Edwards and Sonia Lang  
Vice President Michelle Alexander  
Treasurer Debbi Blake  
Member at Large Joyce Caudillo

### Community representatives present

Officer Joshua Cummings – Community Relations Officer, SDPD  
Willow Lance – Congresswoman Sarah Jacobs’ office  
Roberto Marin – City Council President Sean Elo-Rivera’s office  
Lucero Maganda – Mayor Todd Gloria’s office

### Videos

Videos of the meeting are available on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel, RPCC\_RVCC.

*Facebook:*

<https://www.facebook.com/RolandoParkCommunityCouncil/videos/1677608749713405>

*Note:* You do *not* need to have a Facebook account to view the video.

*YouTube:*

<https://youtu.be/gJAOuUnjBNs>

### Treasurer’s Report

- Two new members since last meeting, plus \$23 donation.

### Community Updates

*Redwood Village*

Thanked all of the volunteers from Oak Park, Rolando Park, and Redwood Village for participating in a very successful cleanup on Saturday, April 6.

- Two dumpster bins filled
- More than 1,100 pounds of metal recycled instead of going to the landfill

*Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee (EACPC)*

- Meets second Tuesday of each month at Teen Challenge and via Zoom
- Tomorrow night: “Housing Crisis or Hoarding Crisis?” presentation on short-term rentals
- Agenda and Zoom link available on our website, Facebook page, and Nextdoor

*Upcoming events*

- Saturday, April 13th, Friends of the Oak Park Library will be holding a book sale (and book signing) at the Library from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, 2802 54th St.
- Saturday, April 13th, from 9 am to 12 pm, Chollas Lake Park Trail Restoration, volunteers needed
- Sunday, April 28th, 3-4 pm: Rolando Park Elementary Joint Use Park parking lot, weeding and cleanup, volunteers needed

*2024 Priorities Updates*

- Zena Canyon: With progress on homeless encampments and communication from SDUSD that brush abatement is planned for the summer, we will hold off on our petition/letter campaign to our School Board Trustee for now
- Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety: None of the blocks in the 3800 and 3900 blocks of Aragon and Loma Alta and 69<sup>th</sup> between Celia Vista and University qualified for traffic calming
  - Aragon Dr has seen an **81.3%** increase in vehicles since 2017 (from **1,732** to **3,140** vehicles daily)

- Aragon, Loma Alta, and Vista Grande now have a combined traffic volume of +**7,500** vehicles daily
- Helping our Village Green Apartment Residents: Will have a needs list from property management this week

### **University Ave Tree Canopy Proposal**

Presentation on adding 160 trees to the median on University Ave between 54<sup>th</sup> and Aragon during the University Bikeway construction; currently a budget priority for City Council District 9; need our communities to help advocate for this project during the budget hearings in May.

## **Mayor Todd Gloria Announces Historic Plan to Create the City’s Largest Homeless Shelter and Announces Plans for H-Barracks**

Mayor Todd Gloria today unveiled a plan to establish the City’s largest-ever long-term shelter for people experiencing homelessness with the capacity to get 1,000 people off the street and connected to services. This site is located at the intersection of Kettner Boulevard and Vine Street in the Middletown/Pacific Highway area of Council District 2.

The owner of the Kettner and Vine facility has agreed to lease the warehouse property for 35 years, with two five-year renewal options. The building improvements and shelter operations will be funded through a combination of local, state and federal funds, along with significant contributions from generous local donors.

### **Future of H Barracks**

Should the City Council approve the Mayor’s proposal of the Kettner and Vine facility and the additional shelter bed capacity it would provide Mayor Gloria announced the City would focus its efforts at H Barracks primarily on expanding its Safe Parking Program for unhoused San Diegans who are temporarily residing in their vehicles.

This comes following months of engagement with the surrounding neighborhoods and with the recently secured settlement on the legal challenge to the City’s Vehicle Habitation Ordinance. Additional Safe Parking is a need that’s especially evident in the Peninsula area and other coastal communities, where numerous oversized vehicles park along streets in commercial and industrial areas.

While the focus will be on expanding the Safe Parking Program by roughly 200 spaces, options such as a sprung structure will remain a possibility at that site.

## **SDPD Yearly Crime Statistics Show 2.7% Overall Decrease for San Diego**

San Diego maintains one of the lowest violent crime rates among large U.S. cities. Compared to the previous year, data show a decrease in over half the crimes tabulated. Crimes against property have remained relatively low, with decreases in all crime sections except for vehicle thefts. Most crime sections, such as prostitution and weapon law violations, also show a decrease compared to last year.

Examples: Murders decreased by 13.5%, sexual assault decreased by 16.2%, non-fatal shootings decreased by 12%, and crimes committed by gang members decreased by 12%.

### **Mayor Gloria Announced Appointment of the Next Chief of Police**

Following an extensive national search and interview process that included vetting by community and law enforcement leaders, Mayor Todd Gloria announced that he is appointing current Assistant Chief Scott Wahl to be the next Chief of Police for the San Diego Police Department. Wahl is a current Assistant Chief with the Department, overseeing Special Projects and Legislative Affairs. In this role, he is responsible for implementing federal, state, and local legislative changes throughout the organization. He served as the department's spokesperson for three years, boosting transparency and giving a voice to police initiatives in the community. As captain of Northern Division, which includes some of the city's largest coastal communities, he worked collaboratively with community groups to reduce gun violence and residential burglaries.

### **City of San Diego Launches Recruitment for New Fire Chief**

Chief Stowell announced his plans to retire in August 2024 following 34-years of service. The City has launched a nationwide search for a new Chief of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, including a [public survey](#) to gather community feedback.

### **Mayor Gloria's and CM Campillo's Sales Tax Proposal Passed Rules Committee: Mayor Gloria's and CM Campillo's Sales Tax Proposal Passed Rules Committee**

Last month, Mayor Gloria and CM Campillo presented a proposal for a ballot measure to increase San Diego's sales tax by 1% (from 7.75% to 8.75%). This effort not about simply raising revenue; it's about unlocking the potential of our city and ensuring that every neighborhood thrives. It is important to note that neighboring cities like La Mesa, Imperial Beach, Del Mar, El Cajon, Oceanside, and National City all already have an 8.75% sales tax.

As mentioned, this proposal is designed to dedicate funds to improve essential neighborhood services, modernizing our aging infrastructure, and maintaining the safety of our families. To be even more specific, these funds will go to the General Fund to fund items like public safety (\*think\* Police, Fire, and Lifeguards), infrastructure (\*think\* Streets and Street Lights), neighborhood services (\*think\* Parks and Libraries) etc.

Moreover, this proposed measure reflects our commitment to fiscal responsibility. By proactively, addressing the challenges of aging infrastructure and growing service demands, we are taking decisive action to mitigate future costs and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.