



June 9, 2023

Councilmember Stephen Whitburn
San Diego City Council
202 C Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92103

Dear Councilmember Whitburn:

I write on behalf of the HBA's 1200 small business members regarding the Unsafe Camping Ordinance which will be presented to City Council on Tuesday, June 13. For many years Hillcrest has borne the brunt of the impact of San Diego's homeless population. Anti-social behavior by homeless individuals impacts our businesses on a daily basis driving customers away and sapping resources for cleaning and security. In the short term, stronger enforcement, along with alternative safe camping spaces is needed to minimize the impact to neighborhoods across the city.

The HBA supports the Unsafe Camping Ordinance to prohibit tent encampments on our sidewalks. We specifically applaud the bill's enforcement relative to canyons as Hillcrest is surrounded by these open spaces. The HBA also supports the safe sleeping proposal that has been discussed and proposals to accommodate these facilities in City parking lots near south east Balboa Park.

Finally, the HBA has been working for several years to expand the existing maintenance assessment districts in Hillcrest to provide additional cleaning and enhancement services. We look forward to advancing this effort at City Council in the next few months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Nicholls".

Benjamin Nicholls, Executive Director
Hillcrest Business Association

Mayor Todd Gloria, Councilmember Joe LaCava, Councilmember Jennifer Campbell, Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery Steppe, Councilmember Marni von Wilpert,



Councilmember Kent Lee, Councilmember Raul Campillo, Councilmember Vivian Moreno, & Council President Sean Elo-Rivera.