

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: January 12, 2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN  
DIEGO RELATING TO A COLLABORATIVE, DATA-DRIVEN, AND EQUITABLE  
RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

WHEREAS, Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., has been the Public Health Officer for the County of San Diego since 2007. Dr. Wooten is a member of the California Conference of Local Health Officials, a member of the Public Health Accreditation Board, and is a recognized leader in California, and the nation, in the field of public health and the prevention of communicable disease transmission; and

WHEREAS, as the Public Health Officer for San Diego County, Dr. Wooten is responsible for the public health of the fifth most populous county in the nation—a population larger than twenty states; and

WHEREAS, the County’s Public Health Services is nationally recognized for its leadership and innovation, and was one of the first urban public health departments in California accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego is supportive of the California Department of Public Health and is committed to working with State partners, including Governor Newsom and California Department of Public Health director, Dr. Tomás Aragón, to protect the public from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors, along with the County Executive staff leading the COVID-19 emergency response team, will make local decisions related to response and recovery using a science-based and comprehensive data-driven approach; and

WHEREAS, as of January 2, 2021, in San Diego County, there have been 168,020, confirmed, positive cases of COVID-19 and 1,592 deaths due to the virus; and

WHEREAS, as of January 2, 2021, of the total positive cases, 57.6 percent are Hispanic or Latino, while that population only makes up 34 percent of the county’s population; and

WHEREAS, the case rate for Hispanic or Latino and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander is among the highest compared to any other race/ethnicity groups, as of January 2, 2021, in San Diego County, the case rate for these groups is 7,629.1 and 9,765.8 per every 100,000 individuals, respectively; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Association of Government (SANDAG) report, “COVID-19 Impacts on the San Diego Regional Economy,” revealed that, during the pandemic, the zip codes experiencing some of the highest unemployment rates in San Diego County include the communities of Logan Heights (92113) at 17.6 percent, Golden Hill (92102) at 16.5 percent, City Heights (92105) at 15.8 percent, National City (91950) at 15.3 percent, and San Ysidro

(92173) at 14.7 percent; and

WHEREAS, while according to the Economic Development Department of California, in San Diego County some sectors, such as the professional and business services, saw an increase of jobs between October 2020 to November 2020, other jobs, in the leisure and hospitality areas continue to experience decreases; and

WHEREAS, according to SANDAG, half of the 64,800 individuals who experienced job loss in the first six months of COVID-19 and identified as Hispanic or Latino were employed in the tourism sector; and

WHEREAS, data has shown that existing health and economic inequities in San Diego County have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to disproportionate harm on communities and people of color; and

WHEREAS, in order to address the longstanding inequities faced by certain communities and populations, when distributing resources the County of San Diego supports using a data-driven approach that identifies communities requiring the highest need by taking into account current positive COVID-19 case rates and available health equity tools, and, when appropriate, proportionately adjusting allocation of resources to help address disparities across communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the County of San Diego's response to the COVID-19 pandemic will be based on scientific evidence outlining best practices, emphasizing a collaborative approach with the State of California, and with a particular focus on equity.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that future federal, state, and local COVID-19 recovery and response funding to San Diego County should, when appropriate, be prioritized for geographic areas and populations most impacted by COVID-19.