



# COUNCILMEMBER JESS RIVAS

## D I S T R I C T 5 N E W S L E T T E R

Hey Neighbor,

It's the first day of October, but here is the September newsletter with a look back at the past month. I hope you are doing well and staying safe as we head into the fall. As always, I am honored to represent you and be a progressive voice on the Council during these challenging times. The Council did not meet on Labor Day, so this month was a little lighter than usual. Here are some highlights of what I've been up to:

- **Received Update on Redistricting** – With the final Census data now in hand, the Redistricting Task Force will begin the next phase of the redistricting process, which is to consider changes to City Council District boundaries. This will include direction to the technical redistricting consultants on the preparation of various redistricting plans, reviewing plans submitted by members of the public, and narrowing redistricting plans based on public testimony and consensus of the Task Force. There will be a public meeting held Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9.a.m. with more information. Details available [here](#).
- **American Communities Survey Data** – In addition to the Census data, we also received data from the ACS survey, which is also conducted by the US Census Bureau. It has lots of interesting data on our districts broken down by race, age, household income, etc. and can be viewed [here](#).
- **Received Update on 710 Stub** – We continue to make progress on the Northern 710 Stub relinquishment process. Our Department of Transportation continues to work with Caltrans and estimates that we will submit the final necessary reports to the California Transportation Commission, which is the authority that will make the final decision, early next year. Once we complete the relinquishment process, we can begin to plan how to use this land and reconnect the parts of our City long divided by the freeway.
- **Approved Loan for Heritage Housing Partners** – We approved a loan for HHP to acquire a unit for affordable homeownership in District 5 at 106 East Orange Grove Boulevard.
- **Extended Contract for Affordable Housing Vouchers at Orange Grove Gardens** – We agreed to extend a contract with Orange Grove Gardens Limited Partnership to provide vouchers for affordable family housing at Orange Grove Gardens (252 East Orange Grove Boulevard). This will assist nine low income families right here District 5. There are an additional 27 units in the building, which are kept affordable through tax-credits and City deed restrictions.
- **Shifted CARES Act Funds to Motel Vouchers** – In June, the State announced a large-scale rent relief program that continues to cover 100 percent of back-rent and all prospective rent for income-qualified tenants. The program also includes assistance for past-due utility bills and tenant legal assistance. In light of this wide-spread infusion of new resources available to renters, the Council decided to reprogram \$500,000 from our CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant for renter assistance to supplement emergency shelter capacity with motel vouchers.
- **Did Not Act on Lincoln Avenue Specific Plan** – In light of the recent adoption of SB 9 and 10, which affect zoning in single-family home neighborhoods and near transit, respectively, the Council held off on taking action on this specific plan. We will receive a briefing from the Planning Department on these new state laws before continuing with our review of the specific plans.

Please don't hesitate to share your thoughts on the above or any other issues by reaching out to me directly at [jerivas@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:jerivas@cityofpasadena.net). I truly value your opinion and look forward to hearing from you.

-Jess

---

**Commissioner Spotlight**

**Sophia Gutierrez**



Born and raised in the Bay Area, Sophia Gutierrez moved to Pasadena three years ago with, her then boyfriend, Greg Strain. The two met while working in San Francisco and when he moved back to Pasadena, she did too. Sophia recalls loving all the old homes and beautiful buildings. It was not long before the two bought a home in the Raymond/Esther historic neighborhood.

Having wondered how Pasadena protected its stock of beautiful old homes, Sophia got an insider's view from the prospective of the property owner. The home she and Greg bought was beautiful but it needed a lot of work. The couple underwent a top to bottom renovation while preserving the exterior front and sides of the

home. It took almost a year before they could move in.

The experience of rehabbing a historic home and her desire to contribute made Sophia a natural to represent District 5 on the Historic Preservation Commission, but she also worried about safety. Speeding cars, drug sales, and recent shootings caused her concern. Not one to sit on her hands, Sophia helped gathered enough signatures to approve speed humps on her street after the previous effort failed. She also organized a neighborhood watch meeting and a neighborhood block party to bring neighbors together.

If you are interested in possibly serving on one of Pasadena's volunteer commissions, check out this list of [current vacancies](#) and apply today!

---

### **Pasadena City Council, District 5**

100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228  
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215  
(626) 744-7147  
@PasadenaD5

