



COUNCILMEMBER JESS RIVAS

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

Dear Neighbor,

Happy Holidays! I hope you and your family will be spending lots of quality time together. The Council has a very light schedule this month. Councilmember Lyon and I were sworn in this week. You can read my remarks from the swearing in ceremony below or view them [here](#).

I was of course very honored and humbled to be appointed by the Council in February of 2021. And when I decided to run to continue serving, I was grateful that I was able to work with a campaign manager who knows our City so well. So I would like to thank Jacque Robinson – who as we all know served as Vice Mayor and councilmember – for her expertise and wisdom through the course of the campaign.

It may have been her easiest campaign, since I was running unopposed, but it was surprisingly still a lot of work. So I also want to be sure to thank all of my endorsers, donors, and volunteers, who helped us reach neighbors and get out the vote.

And it was very important to me that I do that even though I was running unopposed. Because I wanted to let everyone know who I am and what my deal is.

I want to make Pasadena a place that works for everyone That's not just a campaign slogan. It is a statement of my strongly held values and guides everything I do as a councilmember. Pasadena works well for many of us. Probably most of us here today. But so many residents are struggling, and *their* experiences need to be centered in our policy making.

- That's why I was proud to support **Hero Pay** for our essential workers in groceries stores and pharmacies. They risked not only their health, but their families' health, and saw higher rates of infection and death, allowing many of us to stay safer at home during the first year of the pandemic before the vaccine was available. Instead of sharing their record profits with their workers, the largest grocery chain spent a billion dollars in stock buy backs.
- It's why I opposed ending our **eviction moratorium** before our own local emergency orders lifted and while the Council continued to meet remotely. In a recent report by our Housing Department, staff explained: "Since the sunset of the City's eviction moratorium on June 30, 2022, the volume of requests for assistance from Pasadena tenants received by [the Housing Rights Center] and the Housing department has increased markedly. Recent data released by the Liberty Hill Foundation shows Los Angeles County eviction filings have *surpassed pre-pandemic levels*."
- It's why I opposed removing **campaign contribution limits** and support significantly lower limits than the current \$4,900 amount. For many reasons, but especially so that regular working folks – who don't have wealthy personal networks that they can tap into to fundraise – are not at such a stark, structural disadvantage in our elections.
- And it's why I was proud to endorse **Measure H**, which will prevent excessively large rent increases that amount to de facto eviction notices and provide real eviction protections for renters, who are the majority of District 5 residents and the City as a whole.

None of these are radical positions. And they have wide support throughout the community.

So I look forward to a new term, with colleagues old and new. Together, I know that we will be responsive to the community and work towards making Pasadena a place that truly works for everyone."

Please follow me on social media if you haven't already. It's an easy way to stay up to date on what's going on in our neighborhoods and throughout the City. Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter handles are all @PasadenaD5.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at jerivas@cityofpasadena.net. I truly value your opinion and look forward to hearing from you.

-Jess

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