

## RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01

### A RESOLUTION OF THE TORREY PINES DEMOCRATIC CLUB IN SUPPORT OF TIMELY PROCESSING OF EVIDENCE FOR CASES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the San Diego Police Department's Sex Crimes Unit is to conduct fair, impartial, and professional investigations of all felony sexual assaults, and their stated goal is to resolve investigations working with service area investigators, prosecutors, medical professionals, rape crisis advocates, community organizations, and other law enforcement agencies in a problem solving partnership focusing on the criminal prosecution of offender and the reduction of sexual assaults<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, it is widely known that there is a huge and growing backlog in processing evidence from rape kits in San Diego, that only an estimated 15.8% to 35% of all sexual assaults are ever reported to the police due in part to the victim's awareness that evidence is not processed in a timely manner, that many victims feel they will not be believed law enforcement authorities because there remains a stigma associated with victims of sex crimes and a lack of understanding of the trauma experienced by such victims, many of whom believe they will be subject to further abuse by the criminal justice system upon reporting such crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, due in part to such low reporting rates, an estimated 9% of all sex offenders are ever prosecuted, 5% of cases lead to a felony conviction, and 3 percent of convicted sex offenders are sentenced to prison<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, almost 4 of every 10 convicted sex offenders (38.6 percent) are convicted again of a new sex crime<sup>3</sup>, emphasizing the importance of investigating and prosecuting sex offenders as quickly as justice allows, in order to protect the community;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Torrey Pines Democratic Club of San Diego urges the elected leaders of the City of San Diego to protect the residents of San Diego and the surrounding communities by requiring the San Diego Police Department to:

- 1) Create a public facing document with data on the current number of "Rape Kits" and evidence from sexual assault investigations that are waiting in their backlog;
- 2) Provide a plan for processing that backlog and investigating the incidents that led to the gathering of evidence; and
- 3) Provide a plan for addressing sexual assault crimes in a timelier fashion in the future to treat these crimes with the gravity they require as a health and safety menace that impacts the lives of San Diego residents.

**Adopted on the 27th day of May, 2021** by a majority vote of members present.

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Currier, Secretary

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sandiego/police/services/units/sexcrimes>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ocrsm.umd.edu/files/Why-Is-Sexual-Assault-Under-Reported.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sandiego.gov/police/services/units/sexcrimes>