



**JOEL ANDERSON
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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ANDERSON SOLE VOTE AGAINST “COVID BONUS”

Supported Adding More Funds for Business Relief Efforts

(SAN DIEGO) – During the San Diego County Board of Supervisors’ June 8 approval of a framework allocating more than \$653 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Supervisor Joel Anderson was the sole vote against spending \$36 million in “COVID Bonuses,” for County public employees. The measure required 4 affirmative votes to pass.

Average County Employee Makes over \$124,000 in Salary/Benefits

Supervisor Anderson noted that his East County district had some of the highest areas of poverty, even prior to the COVID pandemic.

While Anderson “...appreciates the hard work and passion County employees demonstrate in serving the public, we should not pay COVID BONUSES to individuals whose average pay and benefits are over \$124,000, and not one employee lost their job, unlike 100,000 San Diegans.”

Supported Adding More Funds for Business Relief Efforts

The County will use \$33 million in ARPA funding to assist eligible small businesses with 20 or less full-time employees. An estimated 100,000 employees in San Diego County lost their jobs during the pandemic, many of them in the service sector. Small businesses account for approximately 95% of all businesses in the region, and over half of the region’s employment base.

Supervisor Joel Anderson shared, “Today was a huge win for the hundreds of San Diego County businesses that faced, and continue to experience, hardships from the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud of my colleagues for approving this ARPA framework that will provide critical support to the many mom & pop businesses in my district that could use a helping hand during these challenging times.”

“The decisions this Board made today for how to spend our ARPA allocation is reflective of our values by choosing to assist many different entities and groups recover from the devastating effects of the pandemic,” said Chair Nathan Fletcher. “Supervisor Joel Anderson made a compelling case for increasing funding for businesses and I was proud to support his effort to add millions of dollars in business stimulus funds.”

Shortly after Supervisor Anderson was elected, he partnered with Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer from District 3 to co-author a board letter to expand the County’s COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Plan. In this board letter on February 9, 2021, the Supervisors requested that a minimum of \$30 million be deployed through the Small Business Stimulus Grant program. Actions taken at today’s board meeting surpass this minimum requirement by an additional \$3 million.

The Board also allocated ARPA funds for homeless services, housing vouchers and property acquisition, rental assistance for small landlords, broadband services, food distribution, and for local, independent fire districts which were operationally impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

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Supervisor Joel Anderson
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Anderson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.