



Vision Rehabilitation Services That Rebuild Independence

May 28, 2013

Hon. Bob Filner
Office of the Mayor
City of San Diego Administration Building
202 C St., 11th Floor
San Diego, CA. 92101

Dear Mayor Filner:

I'm writing on behalf of thousands of visually impaired residents and their families across San Diego. We are deeply appreciative of your efforts -- both during your years in Congress and now as Mayor -- to make San Diego an accessible and welcoming community for blind citizens.

You may be aware of the Voice of San Diego's latest project, dubbed "The Stumblr," that showcases San Diego's worst sidewalks. It's a news feature that gives readers a chance to take pictures of the most broken and bumpy sidewalks near their homes and businesses. Most people will flip through the pictures, have a good laugh and move on with their day.

However, for San Diego's blind residents, the "Stumblr" is no laughing matter. Each picture highlights significant hazards for pedestrians living with visual impairment. The cracks and bumps in those sidewalks could easily cause a blind person to fall, break an arm or leg -- or something much worse. After reviewing the pictures, I'm shocked that a City which fully embraces ADA standards would allow such utter disrepair along its sidewalks.

The San Diego Center for the Blind is respectfully calling upon you to order the City's Street Division to review the "Stumblr" photos and fix each broken sidewalk. Moreover, we ask you to direct Street Division officials to perform a comprehensive examination of other unsafe sidewalks throughout San Diego and present you with an action plan to eliminate the hazards.

People with visual impairment have jobs, own homes and pay taxes. They deserve the freedom to travel safely throughout San Diego no differently than a taxpayer with 20/20 vision. Massive cracks and bumps in our sidewalks don't afford them those opportunities.

We look forward to continuing our work with the City of San Diego and making this a place where everyone -- regardless of their visual capabilities -- can enjoy our spectacular community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Gibbens". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kim Gibbens, CEO
San Diego Center for the Blind
5922 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92115-3826
619.583.1542

www.sdcb.org

1385 Bonair Dr. Vista, CA 92084-4164
760.758.5956