



City of San Diego

MARK KERSEY

CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gina Jacobs
(619) 236-6655

Police Cars to Get Life-Saving Technology

Councilman Kersey to fund AEDs in honor of American Heart Month

SAN DIEGO, California, Friday, Feb. 7, 2014 –San Diego City Councilman announced today he will fund the placement of five Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at the San Diego Police Department’s Northeastern Division. Councilman Kersey also committed to funding five AEDs each year until every police vehicle and patrol car in the division is equipped with an AED, which would make it the first SDPD division to be fully equipped with this life-saving technology.

The announcement came today in honor of American Heart Month which takes place during the month of February.

“Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, so it makes sense to have our first responders, like police officers, equipped with a tool that is proven to save lives,” said Councilman Kersey.

While San Diego Fire-Rescue vehicles and ambulances are equipped with AEDs, San Diego Police officers have a very limited number deployed in the field, and only one is deployed in the Northeastern Division which serves a large geographic area including Rancho Bernardo, Scripps Ranch and Rancho Peñasquitos.

The AEDs will be funded through the District Five Community Projects, Programs and Services fund at \$1,500 per unit.

“AEDs are proven to increase survival rates among cardiac arrest victims so we need to make this technology readily available in our neighborhoods,” Councilman Kersey said.

The AEDs will be provided in partnership with San Diego Project Heart Beat, a City of San Diego program managed by the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and operated jointly with Rural/Metro Ambulance who provides emergency medical services for the City.

Councilman Kersey said he hopes this will inspire others to invest in the technology as well to assist Project Heart Beat in reaching their goal of having AEDs as readily available as fire extinguishers.

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