

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, January 15, 2013
Contact: Lena' Lewis, 619 201-1554

News Release



MAYOR BOB FILNER DELIVERS FIRST STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

(San Diego) -- Mayor Bob Filner delivered his first State of the City Address on Tuesday evening in the historic Balboa Theatre in downtown San Diego.

The Mayor spoke about the City's financial health, revitalizing neighborhoods and infrastructure, job growth, cultivating a meaningful relationship with Mexico, keeping the San Diego Chargers football team in San Diego and promoting alternative energy, among other issues.

The Mayor said the City's fiscal health is not as rosy as predicted several months ago. He said there may be a \$40 million deficit when he presents his budget to the San Diego City Council in April.

He announced that the number one priority for improving the City's fiscal health would be to create 50,000 new jobs in the next four years. He will focus on growing business at the Port of San Diego.

He also focused on using the successes of downtown redevelopment as a model for imaginatively rejuvenating the City's unique neighborhoods, which have been neglected for several decades. He proposed renaming the City's redevelopment arm to Neighborhood San Diego, rather than Civic San Diego.

Mayor Filner advocated for developing a strong, cooperative partnership with Mexico in order to enhance a bi-national mega-region and take advantage of the investment opportunities such a relationship would spur. On February 1, the City will open an office in Tijuana to solidify that partnership.

In addition, as a reflection of his dedication to open government, the Mayor will establish weekend hours, on the first Saturday of every month, to meet and speak with anyone who drops by City Hall. The first session will be Saturday, February 2, from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the lobby of City Hall, 202 C Street, San Diego.

The Mayor announced that the Chargers will not “bolt” from San Diego and promised to find a solution that provides a net benefit for the citizens of the City.

He pledged to plan for climate change by developing a Climate Mitigation and Adaption Plan. And he said that he will mandate that all municipal buildings be equipped with solar power in order to make San Diego the “sunniest solar city.”

The Mayor also honored more than a dozen San Diegans and presented them with the Mayor’s Living Legend Award which states:

“An annual award presented by the Mayor of San Diego to men and women who have made a difference in the life of our city, state, nation and world – whether in the arts, business, science, medicine, athletics, or in matters of faith.”

They are:

- Father Joe Carroll, the inspiration for Father Joe’s Villages
- Gloria Johnson, long-time activist for women’s rights and LGBT rights
- Ernest and Evelyn Rady, philanthropists responsible for Rady’s Children Hospital
- Jerry and Maggie Coleman, 40-year San Diego Padres announcer and wife
- Tony and Alicia Gwynn, founders of the Tony and Alicia Gwynn Foundation, as a result of Mr. Gwynn’s remarkable career with the San Diego Padres baseball club
- Leon and Margaret Williams, Mr. Williams was the first African American San Diego City Councilman and County Supervisor, and his wife Margaret.
- Lucy Killea, former California senator, assembly member and San Diego City Councilmember, known for her grace and courage in her public life.
- Jess and Jane Haro, activists in the Latino community
- Eileen Haag and Ira Lechner, philanthropists who oversee “Project High Hopes.”

In addition, the Mayor’s First Lady, Bronwyn Ingram, introduced her all-volunteer organization named “Team First Lady,” which she organized in order to assist the underserved in the community.

Please see a [copy of the address](#) attached to this release.

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