



City of San Diego  
**MARK KERSEY**  
CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

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**Amendment to City Military Leave Policy Passes Unanimously**

*City employees who are active duty or reserve military would receive improved benefits*

SAN DIEGO (April 15, 2015) --- City employees who also serve in the military may soon receive improved benefits to cover federally-mandated inactive duty training. The Budget & Government Efficiency Committee unanimously approved Councilman Mark Kersey's proposed amendment to the City's Military Leave Policy (SDMC 23.1107) which does not cover inactive duty training, commonly referred to as monthly or weekend drills.

Currently, City employees who are also active duty or reserve military, many of whom are first-responders, must take time off or unpaid leave in order to participate in the required trainings.

"The men and women of our armed forces who also serve this City as fire fighters, police officers and public servants should not be forced to use earned vacation time or lose pay in order to serve their country," said Councilman Kersey. "Making these changes will bring added security to our military employees and reflect the Council's appreciation for their service."

Dozens of City employees who also serve their country in the Marines, Navy and Coast Guard were at the Committee Meeting to express their support. More than 100 City employees are estimated to benefit.

"Extending military leave coverage to inactive duty training will be a huge help to my family and ensure that they will not be negatively impacted by my continued commitment to both the military and the City," said U.S. Coast Guard Ensign Kyle Kutzke, also an engineer paramedic in the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

Councilman Kersey also requested an amendment to the code to indicate "calendar days" rather than "days" or "shifts," as employees who work shifts that span two days often end up being docked two days of military leave when on active duty.

The action today forwards the item on to the City Attorney's Office to draft the changes to the code. Councilman Kersey requested the municipal code changes go to Council as soon as possible, so the improved benefits could be reflected in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

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