



Proclamation of the City Council City of San Diego

Clifford “Rip” Rippetoe Day

Presented by Mayor Todd Gloria, Council President Joe LaCava,
Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, & Councilmember Raul A. Campillo
June 17, 2026

WHEREAS, Clifford “Rip” Rippetoe, Certified Venue Executive (CVE), has served as President and CEO of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation since 2016 and will retire in 2026 after a decade of exceptional leadership in San Diego and a distinguished career in the meetings and events industry; **and**

WHEREAS, Rip Rippetoe has dedicated his career to the convention and meetings industry, supporting major national trade shows, the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, and premier venues including the Las Vegas Convention Center, Salt Palace Convention Center, and Kentucky Exposition Center; **and**

WHEREAS, Rip Rippetoe led the San Diego Convention Center through historic challenges and milestones, including serving as an emergency shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic, reopening for events in 2021, and generating a record-setting economic impact in Fiscal Year 2025, including approximately \$38 million in tax revenue for the City of San Diego and \$1.6 billion in regional economic activity; **and**

WHEREAS, Rip Rippetoe’s leadership helped earn national recognition for the San Diego Convention Center, including the 2026 EXHIBITOR Center of Excellence Award, the 2017 IAVM Excellence Award, the 2022 Global Meetings Industry Day Award, and recognition by The Wall Street Journal in 2023 as one of the nation’s top five convention centers; **and**

WHEREAS, Rip Rippetoe has strengthened the San Diego community through service with the Downtown San Diego Partnership, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, Sports San Diego, and as Immediate Past Chair and Board Member Emeritus of the Jacob & Cushman San Diego Food Bank; **and**

WHEREAS, as a national leader in the tourism and events industry, Rip has served on boards and advisory councils including the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA), San Diego County Lodging Association, San Diego Tourism Authority, and the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM), and as a Founding Board Member of the Exhibitions & Conference Alliance; **and**

WHEREAS, as Rip Rippetoe retires after a distinguished career of leadership and service, his lasting contributions to the San Diego region have strengthened the local economy, elevated the city’s reputation as a premier global destination, and positively impacted countless residents, visitors, businesses, and community organizations; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim June 17, 2026 to be “Clifford ‘Rip’ Rippetoe Day” in the City of San Diego.



COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOE LACAVAL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM KENT LEE

COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER CAMPBELL

COUNCILMEMBER STEPHEN WHITBURN

COUNCILMEMBER HENRY L. FOSTER III

COUNCILMEMBER MARNI VON WILPERT

COUNCILMEMBER RAUL A. CAMPILLO

COUNCILMEMBER JULIAN MORENO

COUNCILMEMBER SEAN ELO-RIVERA

MAYOR TODD GLORIA

Approved by Council on the 8th Day of June, 2026