



City Councilmember Scott Sherman

District 7

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City Council Votes to Give \$5 Million Taxpayer Dollars to Fund Football Program

New Lease Agreement Won't Even Cover Stadium's Utility Bill

San Diego – Today, the City Council approved a heavily subsidized lease agreement with San Diego State University to play football at SDCCU Stadium. This epic failure follows a long and shameful local tradition of subsidizing sports at taxpayers' expense.

The stadium site is an annual loser for San Diego taxpayers, costing the city over \$7 million a year. If the stadium was shut down as previously planned, those funds could be used to improve neighborhood services such as public safety or road repair. Instead, the City Council decided to fund a football program.

Unfortunately, SDSU's rent offer of only \$1.1 million won't even cover SDCCU Stadium's utility bill.

Last week at SG&LU Committee, Committee members urged staff and SDSU to go back to the table and reach a better deal for taxpayers. Instead of staying true to their requests, three members of the Committee changed their mind and gave into SDSU demands at Council today.

The lack of backbone sends a clear message—the City and its leadership are weak negotiators. This action shows that entities interested in doing business with the City can count on a good deal on the backs of taxpayers.

“I am disappointed that millions in taxpayer dollars that could go to public safety and road repair will now be diverted to fund another football program,” said Councilmember Sherman. “Just like the Chargers ticket guarantee, this vote will be remembered as a failure of leadership.”

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