



News from

## Council President Todd Gloria

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City of San Diego ▪ District Three

Friends,

First, let me wish you all a very Happy New Year! I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with family and loved ones.

### **We made history in 2012!**

Here in the City of San Diego, 2012 has been an historic year on many levels. Through collaboration with our workers, the business community, the nonprofit sector and most importantly, YOU, the public we serve, the Mayor and City Council have made significant strides toward long-term financial stability. Our City government has been consumed with managing this City's finances for the last decade. After some troubling times for San Diego, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel that results from balancing our budget, building our reserves, regaining our credit rating and beginning to restore neighborhood services.

Maintaining this positive budgetary outlook will not be easy. We will continue to do our part to exercise fiscal discipline and to make smart decisions with the taxpayers' money. However, external pressures like the fiscal cliff, redevelopment dissolution and voter initiatives may slow our plans to restore more services. We will address each of these challenges head on using the reform tools that have helped us get this far. Auditing, efficiencies, managed competition and increased use of technology are all a part of the solution. We also know the best solutions will happen when we invite the public and our employees into the process at every step. With your help, we can ensure the best outcome for San Diego.

### **Now is the time to build strong neighborhoods.**

As we continue on the path to a strong and secure financial footing, now is the time to build strong neighborhoods. With the help of our new Mayor, we will address the needs of our neighborhoods with the same vigor that we tackled our budget problems. It is estimated that nearly \$1 billion is needed to repair our roads, water and sewer pipes and public facilities like fire stations and parks. It is clear that we can no longer afford to ignore this problem.

I am excited that we now have a Council committee that is dedicated solely to improving our neighborhoods. At my direction the Council created a standing committee on neighborhood infrastructure. I have high expectations for this committee and the results they can achieve working together with you, the people who understand the needs of our neighborhoods. I expect the Committee will act to streamline repair efforts to speed up the work, stretch our existing resources farther and create jobs. The Committee will engage neighborhoods to prioritize the repair projects you want through a new multi-year capital improvement plan. At the end of this process I believe we will have a plan to permanently maintain our neighborhoods, and none of the work I do as your Council President could get me more excited! Decades of neglect will not be undone in one year, but substantial progress will be made in 2013.

You will see tangible proof of this progress in several key projects. This year will feature the completion of the City's year-round homeless services center and the new Central Library in East Village. Both projects are the result of collaborative efforts with other public agencies, nonprofit organizations and philanthropy. The Council will vote to start construction of the much-needed permanent Mission Valley Fire Station, replace our outdated computer-aided dispatch system to reduce emergency response times, and finish 232 miles of road repairs this fiscal year.

Rebuilding our neighborhoods and maintaining the financial health of the City is dependent on our ability to grow our economy and preserve our quality of life. The Council will focus on both objectives.

**We will protect our defense, scientific and research sector jobs.**

Working with regional leaders, San Diego will defend our military bases and protect the defense, scientific and research sector jobs that are connected to them. We will work through the regulatory process to see our Convention Center expanded and prepare for the 2015 Balboa Park centennial to boost our tourism industry. We will stimulate business and spur job growth through the use of our Enterprise Zone and partner with Civic San Diego to direct investment into former redevelopment areas that still need revitalization. Finally, the Council will adopt a comprehensive economic development strategy to grow the diverse technology clusters that are helping to strengthen our economy.

**Quality of life issues will not take a back seat to other efforts.**

Protecting our natural resources is good for us on so many levels, from improving our quality of life to retaining jobs and businesses. In collaboration with the State, the Council dramatically expanded San Diego's inventory of open space in 2012. We will continue that effort in 2013 and expand our water supply through various methods including water reuse. We will support our Mayor's call to reduce our carbon footprint by making the City a leader in renewable energy and active transportation like biking and walking.

Ten thousand citizens in San Diego County are homeless. Many of them are veterans. This is a civic disgrace that comes at a high cost to taxpayers. We can do better than this. I expect the collaborative efforts seeking to end homelessness and expand affordable housing will continue with the strong support of the City.

San Diegans will see their City working hard on their behalf in 2013. They will see a City Council building on our recent successes to ensure the fiscal health of our City and the well-being of our neighborhoods. As your Council President, San Diegans can count on me to keep the Council focused on our community's priorities, operating in a bipartisan fashion, and willing to collaborate with anyone interested in moving our city forward.

The spirit of collaboration in order to achieve progress will continue to guide us in the New Year. I wish every San Diegan great success in 2013 and ask that they join their neighbors in the work of building America's Finest City.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Todd

Todd

*If you would no longer like to receive updates, please send an email to [toddgloria@sandiego.gov](mailto:toddgloria@sandiego.gov) and ask to be removed from the list.*