



**OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE** : March 11, 2008

**TO** : Council President Scott Peters & Honorable Members of the  
San Diego City Council

**FROM** : Mayor Jerry Sanders

**SUBJECT** : Appointments to the Qualcomm Stadium Advisory Board

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It is my pleasure to appoint Dr. Rudy Castruita and Ben Clay to the Qualcomm Stadium Advisory Board, subject to your confirmation.

Rudy Castruita, Ed.D., retired in 2006 after more than 40 years in the field of education. Dr. Castruita's legacy is a very distinguished and exemplary career that transformed the educational landscape and the lives of students through his innovative and visionary leadership. Dr. Castruita retired as the County Superintendent of Schools for San Diego County and served for more than 12 years overseeing management, operations, and services for 42 school districts, 30,000 employees and 428,000 students. His unwavering commitment to providing exemplary education to all students and passion for integrating best practices in school districts, resulted in closing the achievement gap for thousands of students throughout California. Dr. Castruita's insight into overseeing the daily operations of school districts as well as his great ability to understand and respond to the needs of diverse students has left a lasting imprint on the field of education. His achievements, accomplishments, and awards in education are voluminous and include the development of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) Compact, procurement of more than \$240 million in grants for schools and students, launch of hundreds of adult literacy centers throughout the nation, development of various self-esteem, dropout prevention, and school readiness programs, and the establishment of three multi-million dollar regional technology and education centers in San Diego County. In 1992, Dr. Castruita was named the California Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators.

As County Superintendent of San Diego County Schools, Dr. Castruita's efforts led to the establishment of the Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center, a \$4.2 million center that

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serves as a comprehensive hub for educational information, resources, and technological support for local school districts and supporting communities. Dr. Castruita also established scholarship programs with sports franchises including Padres Scholars and Chargers Champions. He also implemented MathVision, an award-winning live call-in television program providing homework assistance for San Diego County students, parents, and teachers.

From 1988-1994, Dr. Castruita was the Superintendent for Santa Ana Unified School District in Santa Ana, California. During his tenure as Superintendent, Dr. Castruita reduced the dropout rate by 45% and significantly increased achievement test scores. At Santa Ana Unified, he also served as an Associate Superintendent for the Secondary Division from 1987-1988, and Assistant Superintendent from 1985-1987. Dr. Castruita began his career in education in 1967 as a Counselor and Coordinator of Driver Education for the Union High School District in El Monte, California. Through his commitment, passion, and excellence in educational leadership, Dr. Castruita worked his way up the educational ranks to become a Secondary Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal at high schools in El Monte and Los Alamitos, California. Currently, Dr. Castruita, is an Endowed Chair Professor in Educational Administration for the University of Southern California.

Dr. Castruita has served on numerous business, professional, and educational boards and committees and has also been actively engaged in civic and community service activities for many years. Dr. Castruita has served on the Board of Directors for the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Natural History Museum, and United Way of San Diego County. He is also the Past President of the San Diego Bowl Game Association. Dr. Castruita received a Doctoral degree in Educational Administration from the University of Southern California in 1983. He resides in Mission Hills. Dr. Castruita will replace Joseph Martinez, who is termed out, for a term expiring January 1, 2012.

Mr. Ben Clay is a Partner & Founder of Carpi & Clay, a government relations firm with offices in San Diego, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. The firm provides strategic counsel, designs government relations programs, develops legislative strategies to advance public policy and business development, and represents clients at the local, state and federal levels. Throughout Mr. Clay's experience in government relations and intergovernmental affairs, he has provided legislative and strategic counsel on issues and topics including transportation and infrastructure, natural resources, environmental regulation, public finance, housing and community development, safety and security, and international trade and commerce. Since 1984, Mr. Clay has been a state and federal lobbyist and has represented clients including the City of Coronado, County of San Diego, Port of San Diego, Scripps Health and San Diego County Water Authority. Originally, Mr. Clay founded the Clay Company in 1984, then began Carpi & Clay with Mr. Ken Carpi in 1986. Prior to establishing Carpi & Clay, Mr. Clay worked for the City of San Diego as an Assistant to the City Manager from 1972-1973. He later represented and lobbied on behalf of the City in Sacramento from 1973-1976. From 1976-1983, Mr. Clay was the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the County of San Diego and represented the County as their Chief Lobbyist in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

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Mr. Clay has been actively engaged for many years in enhancing and providing opportunities for the San Diego community through service on various civic, charitable, and philanthropic boards and associations. Currently, Mr. Clay serves on the Board of Directors for San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego Symphony Association, and California State Railroad Museum Foundation. Previously, Mr. Clay served on the Board of Directors for the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, and San Diego Children's Museum. He was also the Past President and Board Member of the San Diego Rotary Club.

Mr. Clay earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from San Diego State University in 1967, and has taught Public Administration courses at San Diego Community College, National University and San Diego State University. His many years of experience, service to the community, in-depth understanding of local government and public entities, and global insight into the issues and challenges facing San Diego's economy and region makes him an excellent candidate to serve on the Qualcomm Stadium Advisory Board. Mr. Clay resides in Mission Hills. He will replace Karen McElliott, who is termed out, for a term expiring January 1, 2010.

I ask that you confirm these appointments and join me in acknowledging these individuals for their willingness to give of their time and serve the City of San Diego.



JERRY SANDERS

Mayor

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cc: City Attorney Michael Aguirre  
City Clerk Elizabeth Maland