



Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Faulconer

NEWS RELEASE

April 15, 2009

Contact: Tony Manolatos (619) 549-0137

Faulconer praises tough decisions by council and mayor

New deals reached with 3 of 5 unions and City Council votes unanimously to impose terms on others

SAN DIEGO CITY HALL: Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer wants to thank City unions representing firefighters, white-collar workers and deputy city attorneys, along with his City Council colleagues and the Mayor, for making difficult but necessary decisions yesterday.

"I'm very pleased with the significant concessions our employees agreed to make," Faulconer said. "These are obviously tough times for them, but they understand we have to make tough choices now in order to secure the City's financial future."

Faulconer hopes this important step lays the groundwork for upcoming negotiations to further reform retiree health benefits – a \$1.2 billion obligation that is almost entirely unfunded.

"Retiree health care is *the* ticking time bomb," Faulconer said.

Faulconer is pleased the Mayor's proposed 2010 budget doesn't call for layoffs or new service cuts. He plans to continue working toward preserving services and jobs, two areas that would have been adversely impacted without the employee concessions San Diego City Firefighters Local 145, the Municipal Employees Association and the Deputy City Attorney's Association made yesterday.

"A solvent, fiscally healthy city is not only good for taxpayers – it also greatly benefits employees," said Faulconer, chair of the Audit Committee and vice chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Faulconer is available for interviews today.