



# 184 Days of Progress

## INTERIM MAYOR TODD GLORIA

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### City of San Diego

**WEEKLY UPDATE: February 20, 2014**

#### **Police Department Audit**

Given the recent charges brought against Officer Hays, Chief Lansdowne has proposed engaging an outside agency to conduct an independent audit to assess how the department handles misconduct and related police practices. I have directed City staff to begin the information gathering phase and evaluate various options and costs associated with a competitive process. An audit would likely take six months to a year-and-a-half to complete. Once a final recommendation is made, the City will present its recommendation before the City Council for their consideration.

No matter the cost, what's really at stake is the public's trust of our police force. We have an excellent police force comprised of dedicated, hard working individuals who care deeply about our City. We cannot have one single officer misuse the power given to him or her when they took their oath to serve. Their behavior cannot in any way disparage the uniform or the department they represent. That being said, I have complete confidence in Chief Lansdowne's leadership with respect to this matter.

#### **Purchasing and Contracting**

I am very excited to announce a proposal that will not only speed up City business when it comes to getting work done, it will also ensure we are getting the most for our taxpayer dollars. We have some proposed revisions to our Municipal Code on the table relative to the City's Purchasing and Contracting department that will ensure a more efficient, which process when ordering products or services, getting approval, and the completion of jobs.

Purchasing and Contracting is a huge part of City operations. There are more than 9,000 requisitions and 350 solicitations annually from companies wanting to do work for our City. Currently, a request can take up to two months to process. With changes to the Municipal Code, that time could be reduced to 1 to 2 weeks, making our process more efficient, which translates into better customer service to the citizens of San Diego.

The new proposed Purchasing and Contracting process will make the department more transparent. The department will develop monthly reports to closely monitor purchases and those purchases will be posted quarterly on the City's website.

These adjustments will create a smoother, more efficient flow of resources to problems that need to be fixed and reduce the delay and red tape of projects that need to be completed.

As I mentioned before, these modifications will provide all-around better customer service. That is our goal – to use taxpayer money wisely, efficiently, and to deliver services in a timely manner.

### **Boards and Commissions**

When I became Interim Mayor, one of the problems that needed immediate attention was the scores of vacancies on the City's numerous boards and commissions – over 200. I am proud to announce that, with the help of my Council colleagues, we have made 169 appointments over the past five months. Some of these appointments were made to the Consolidated Plan Advisory Board, the Convention Center Corporation, the Housing Commission, the Parks and Recreation Board, the Commission for Arts and Culture and more. When Mayor-Elect Faulconer assumes office next month, his office will be looking at Boards and Commissions that are up to date, running and serving our City well. Now that's real progress.

### **Resignation of Jeff Graham**

As I am sure you are well-aware, Jeff Graham, the President of Civic San Diego, announced his resignation yesterday. Jeff has done a tremendous job leading Civic San Diego. I appreciate and value his judgment, skill and friendship. He has been an asset for our City and I wish him nothing but great success with his new professional endeavor. Civic San Diego is an important resource for revitalizing San Diego's neighborhoods and I am confident Mayor-Elect Faulconer will select a qualified candidate as Jeff's successor to keep Civic San Diego moving forward.

### **Mid-Year Budget Report**

The Mid-Year Budget Report will be released tomorrow. All I will say at this point is there is good news on that front. Stay tuned tomorrow for when that report is revealed. The Mid-Year Budget Report is expected to be heard by the Budget Committee on February 26.

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