



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
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**CITY LEADERS VOW TO SAVE LIBRARIES  
AND RECREATION CENTERS FROM BUDGET CHOPPING BLOCK**

*Councilmembers unveil plan to spare painful cuts to vital community services*

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (May 9, 2011) -- A coalition of San Diego City Councilmembers today vowed to heed citizens' demands to save local libraries and recreation centers from the budget chopping block.

"We're sending a strong message that the budget we want to provide the Mayor for the upcoming fiscal year will include restored hours to our city's cherished libraries and beloved rec centers," said Council President Tony Young.

Councilmembers Todd Gloria, Lorie Zapf and David Alvarez joined Council President Young in pledging to spare these vital services, and more importantly, to unveil a fiscally responsible plan that preserves hours for libraries and rec centers citywide by tapping into nearly \$13.5 million of ongoing resource options.

"We're taking a much more hands-on approach to solving the budget problem than any council ever before, and we should be able to avoid painful cuts to our libraries and recreation centers because of our resourcefulness," said Councilmember Gloria, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Among the options outlined by the budget-reform minded councilmembers include eliminating cell phones for non-public safety departments, and reducing training and overtime pay for non-public safety departments.

Many of the ideas in the 10-point plan come from the City Council's proactive budget process and first-ever budget resolution presented in late March, as well as recommendations vetted by the city's Independent Budget Analyst Andrea Tevlin.

"Once again I commend Council President Young's leadership and my Council colleagues here with me today for proactively offering real budget solutions," Councilmember Alvarez said. "We will solve this budget deficit and keep libraries and recreation centers open."

Council President Young thanked his fellow councilmembers “for their historic role crafting a budget for the upcoming year that represents the priorities of our citizens and is responsive to public service needs, while still continuing to work diligently toward a much-needed solution to our structural budget deficit.”

A public hearing and city council discussion on the Mayor’s proposed FY2012 budget will be held tonight, May 9 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the City Administration Building, 202 C Street, downtown San Diego.

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