



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANTHONY YOUNG

FOURTH COUNCIL DISTRICT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S 2012 NEW YEAR MESSAGE

It is an honor and a privilege to again be selected by my fellow council members to serve as San Diego City Council President. I thank them and sincerely appreciate their confidence and support and pledge to continue as a humble, available public servant to the citizens of this fine city.

I see 2012 as a year in which your Council will be forming and acting on new concepts to meet the challenges and needs of this city. In his song Imagine, John Lennon wrote "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I am not the only one..." Indeed we all have a vision of what we want San Diego to be, and I am asking all San Diegans to be an active part of this imagining effort.

In addition to continuing to strengthen a cohesive Council that works together toward better and more transparent governance, we will also be asking all of you to join us in reimagining how we govern and provide services to the 1.3 million citizens of San Diego. We will be reimagining how we address the budget, how we implement projects, how we form impactful partnerships with other entities, and how we strengthen our local economy and improve our vibrant communities. This should be a mandate from the citizenry. You expect us as your elected leaders to work together making San Diego everything imaginable that shows us as America's precious jewel by the sea shining with a strong economic light from within.

2012 will be a year of elections that will impact our region for at least the next four to eight years. A new mayor and Council members will be elected. Be assured that we will not let campaign politics distract this Council from addressing core issues and moving in a dynamic direction that move this city boldly forward into a brighter future.

This past year, the Council took decisive steps to strengthen the economy and create new jobs. However, we cannot overlook the fact that there is a serious problem with educating our children to take those jobs. Our economic and jobs future is here and evolving and our school system is not prepared to meet this challenge. In some schools math and science proficiency scores are horrible and unacceptable. In some schools they are barely acceptable and in a very few schools, they are above average. If we want our children to work in the jobs of today and the careers of the future, we should all be concerned and involved in helping our schools improve the education process. Imagine what our school system of the next 5-20 years will look like if we all take a

huge stake in ensuring our youth are educated and job ready. This education collective includes, Mayors and other elected officials, the business sector, and private citizens all staking a claim to actively improving the education system and embracing a culture of educational excellence. San Diego Unified School District Board of Education President John Evans and I will be convening a joint meeting of the San Diego City Council and the board of education focusing on ways we can strengthen our ties, further partnerships with schools, and work toward a better educated San Diego. I will be requesting the Mayor join us and actively participate in this meeting. I will also request the Council to work more closely with the San Diego Workforce Partnership regarding workforce development activities that involve our schools and industry clusters in the region, such as tourism, military, medical, and manufacturing. Using the example of the city water department's efforts with students from the 4th Council District's Elementary Institute of Science, I will be requesting we seek to engage other appropriate city departments to work closely with schools. An educated workforce for today and tomorrow require we all get involved.

The Mayor and Council successfully have managed an unprecedented budget crisis in the past few years. In 2011, a balanced budget was adopted by the Council that ended the "brownouts" and restored fire services. As we begin the process of reimagining our budget for fiscal year 2013 and beyond, it is clear the structural budget as we knew it is over. We will always have a pension obligation to pay. Some years it will be more and in some years it will be less. Accepting this truth will allow the Council to balance the budget and also look at ways to add additional library hours and park and recreation hours for the citizens of San Diego. Beginning this year we will no longer have a structural budget deficit problem. Instead, we will have a priority spending challenge. In essence, what priorities do you want the budget to be balanced on? I will be asking my council colleagues, the Independent Budget Analyst, and the Mayor to look at the 2013 city budget of over \$1 billion and find a few hundred thousand dollars for additional library hours and park and recreation hours in each council district.

We currently have a capital improvement project (CIP) budget of over \$3 billion and another \$208 million was added to the budget for fiscal year 2012! Can you imagine the number of important infrastructure projects started and jobs created if an additional \$2 to \$3 billion was invested into the San Diego economy? This Council will be enacting a local economic stimulus initiative within the next few months and take the actions necessary to begin and complete capital improvement projects as quickly and efficiently as possible. The city auditor began this reimagining process in early 2011 and has presented the Council and Mayor with recommendations that will streamline the CIP process and move projects from being stagnant numbers on a budget ledger to active projects with shovels in the ground. The Council Committee Chairs will be working diligently to move projects out of committee and on to Council in a very expeditious manner. As a result of these and other actions taken by the Mayor and staff, I am confident you will see and feel an economic stimulus boost in 2012.

The California Supreme Court's decision to allow the State to dissolve redevelopment agencies will have a huge impact on how we recreate redevelopment in San Diego. This will be the

challenge of the Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Redevelopment, the Council, and the Mayor. We will be discussing and acting on the City's role as a potential "Successor Agency." This will be a historical opportunity to reshape how redevelopment happens in neighborhoods throughout San Diego and helps ensure economic and job opportunities are available to more communities. The Governor and the California legislature will hear from this Council and you, in a loud and clear voice that redevelopment as they know it may be over, but redevelopment as we reimagine and implement it is on the way.

There are at least three major construction project concepts coming forward in 2012 that will require a great deal of creativity, fiscal responsibility, and Council fortitude. We will be addressing expansion of the convention center, building a new stadium for the Chargers, and deciding on spending millions of dollars to patch-up and maintain a perpetually eroding city hall building or instead building a new civic facility that serves the people of San Diego and not the city officials. These issues will be docketed and fully discussed at Council and the appropriate Council committees.

I am very excited about the new council Committee on Economic Development and Strategies that we just established. This Committee will help make this city America's precious jewel by the sea! It is my expectation that a visionary plan that will define San Diego economically for the next 10 to 20 years will be developed and implemented. The Committee will begin its work in January and serve as a vehicle by which the Council and Mayor can work towards creating jobs and improving the local economy. The efforts begun by the Council in 2011 to assist small businesses will continue with the Council working with the Mayor to enact a code compliance amnesty period, adding a sunset clause for all new business regulations and policies, and updating of various council policies relating to economic development and job creation.

Public safety will always play a major role in establishing and maintaining economically thriving communities. We will be working with partners such as Rebuilding Together San Diego to help make our communities safer by putting additional lighting in our parks and communities. The San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention has worked tirelessly on its vision and mission to help prevent the growth of gang activity and violence in San Diego neighborhoods. Their continuing efforts and your involvement will help motivate more youth to stay out of gangs, stay in school, and be positive forces in their communities.

Enhancing our communities through an evolving transportation system will be further sharpened in 2012. Safe routes to schools, community bicycle plans, improved streets for walking and riding, and further expansion of public transit will be implemented. More high occupancy vehicle lanes that make our commute on the freeways easier and safer also will be added.

The San Diego Sports Commission brings many wonderful sporting events to the city including major football, golf, and amateur athletic events. We will work closer with the Commission and

look for ways this Council can assist with bringing even more events to this city and spur an even greater local economic boost, fun and entertainment for youth and families.

2012 will be a continuation of the Council's efforts to better use technology. We will be moving towards a paperless city hall where much of the information we provide will be done electronically. Further developments in the city's customer relationship management module will be completed. Business and citizens will be able to interact in a virtual one stop shop in which fees and bills can be paid, services can be requested, contracting opportunities explored, and various forms of documents shared. We will also be looking at ways in which we can expand broadband opportunities into communities and further close the digital divide that disadvantages our youth and families.

Enhanced use of renewable energy sources will play a significant role in the city's future. Working with energy providers and other organizations we will further expand the use of renewable energy to power our city, save money, and provide a cleaner, greener and brighter city. This will serve as an example for private citizens and commercial businesses to follow our lead and achieve the same goals through the use of water powered, wind powered and/or solar powered renewable energy sources.

2012 will be a year in which both Sacramento and Washington will hear from this Council. I will be asking my Council colleagues to join me on trips to both capitols to directly ask for more local control, financial grants to further benefit the people of San Diego, and other legislative priorities outlined by this Council and the Mayor. We will be seeking more community development block grant funding for jobs, job training, affordable housing, and social services. We will be looking to retain and expand enterprise zones, more water and energy conservation projects, more public safety dollars for police and fire, more regulatory relief that allows us to grow the economy, add jobs, and enhance businesses, and greater assistance from financial institutions to address foreclosure and maintain foreclosed properties.

Yes, I am energized and excited to work with the Council, Mayor, other elected officials and all of you this year. There is so much more that will be done to improve the quality of life of our respective districts and the city as a whole. Reimagining is a powerful word, however it is the actions that result from it that will make the future of this Council and this city a bright and positive one. A true vision by the sea of a city that is educated, economically strong and viable, and all of us working together to keep making the vision brighter.