



**MAYOR KEVIN L. FAULCONER
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

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NEWS RELEASE

Mayor Faulconer puts “One San Diego” Plan to Work in New Budget Proposal

Street repair, increased library hours and boosts to public safety take center stage in balanced 2014-2015 City budget

San Diego, CA – Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer released his first “One San Diego” City budget proposal today, outlining a plan to direct more money toward streets, neighborhood services and public safety. The City of San Diego Fiscal Year 2015 proposed budget puts neighborhoods first by prioritizing infrastructure repair and construction; funding critical police, fire and lifeguard needs; increasing funding for libraries, recreation centers and a new afterschool program; supporting homeless services; and enhancing transparency and open data initiatives.

“This budget will bring San Diego smoother roads, more police on the beat, improved emergency response times when you call 911, more hours and afterschool programs at libraries, and funding to bring City Hall into the digital age,” Faulconer said. **“Simply put, this nearly \$3 billion budget returns City Hall’s focus to San Diego’s neighborhoods – and puts our vision for “One San Diego” to work.”**

The \$2.97 billion budget is balanced using fiscally responsible practices and continued savings from fiscal reforms. More than 50 percent of growth from the City’s major revenue sources – property, sales and transient occupancy taxes – is directed toward fixing San Diego neighborhoods.

“This budget puts our neighborhoods first and pays for neighborhood improvements with common-sense financial practices,” said Faulconer. **“It translates a recovering local economy and the benefits of reform – pension reform, retiree healthcare reform and managed competition – into community revitalization.”**

Faulconer emphasized his spending plan pays for neighborhood services without sacrificing the sound fiscal strategies that helped bring San Diego back from the brink of bankruptcy. The City had initially projected a \$19.1 million General Fund deficit for the coming fiscal year. Faulconer credited the financial turnaround to reforms approved by the voters and City leaders, prudent fiscal management that have made San Diego a model for financial accountability and stability, and a rebounding economy.

“I believe we have a real opportunity to unite San Diego and make sure no community is left behind,” Faulconer said. **“By targeting the surplus revenue in this budget to services that have been cut over the years, San Diego is back on track and set up for success.”**

In addition, Faulconer has asked all departments to continue to provide innovative ideas for cost reductions and efficiencies, encouraging a culture of continuous improvement and open communication. Faulconer will be announcing plans regarding the managed competition program in the next several weeks.

The nearly \$3 billion budget proposal recommends spending levels for City operations for Fiscal Year 2015, which runs from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. The final budget will be adopted in June following several weeks of review by the public and City Council. Faulconer will formally present the budget to the City Council at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers.

The entire budget can be viewed online at <http://www.sandiego.gov/fm/proposed/index.shtml>.



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Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget Highlights

Streets and Infrastructure

“San Diego's roads, street lights, fire stations and storm drains are getting a major shot in the arm. In fact, more than 50 percent of growth from our major revenue sources is going toward fixing our neighborhoods,” Faulconer said.

- More than 50% of major General Fund revenue growth dedicated to infrastructure and neighborhood repair efforts
- Fiscal Year 2015 Capital Improvements Project budget of \$297.7 million to support various types of projects (e.g. water and sewer facilities, buildings and transportation projects)
- Debt service for a \$120 million Capital Improvements Project bond
- Storm Water Infrastructure & Drainage Projects, \$7.4 million
- Condition/needs assessments of City facilities, streets and park assets to ensure more effective allocation of tax dollars and prioritization of capital improvement projects, \$2 million
- Sidewalk and street light improvements, \$1.4 million
- Increased staffing for streets resurfacing and Regional Pothole Repair program, \$400,000

Neighborhood Services

“Libraries – the centers of learning and civic engagement in our communities – will continue to see increased hours, with 4 more hours a week at all branch libraries, 5 hours

at the Central Library and afterschool programs targeted to communities where we're working to raise test scores," Faulconer said.

- Expansion of library hours by an additional 4 hours per week at all branch libraries and 5 hours per week at the Central Library, \$1.5 million
- New afterschool program at specific libraries, \$500,000
- Community plan updates, \$900,000
- Staffing for new Park & Recreation facilities, \$800,000
- Code Enforcement Support, \$400,000
- Support for San Diego Workforce Partnership CONNECT2Careers program, \$200,000
- Overnight Camping Kumeyaay Campground, \$100,000

Solutions for Homelessness

“Greater opportunity is on the horizon for more of San Diego’s homeless women, children and veterans. This proposal funds programs that deliver comprehensive homeless services that don’t just provide a bed, but also the wrap-around services people need to find permanent housing,” Faulconer said.

This budget also reflects a renewed focus on permanent solutions to ending homelessness. In all, \$1.9 million is reallocated toward a combination of programs and shelters that connect the homeless with housing opportunities and rehabilitative services.

- Adult winter shelter, November through March, \$800,000
- Homeless management information system, \$400,000
- SDPD Serial Inebriate Program, \$120,000
- SDPD Homeless Outreach Team, \$40,000
- Neil Good Day Center, \$80,000
- Homeless check-in center, \$150,000
- Connections Housing, \$300,000

Public Safety

“Rebuilding the shrinking San Diego Police Department is a key focus on this budget, and my commitment to restoring trust and integrity to the department is front and center. Not only will it fund four larger police academies and a boosted retention program to keep quality officers, but it also includes funding for the police body camera program,”
Faulconer said.

He added, **“No matter where you live, you deserve quality City services and deserve to feel safe. I call it neighborhood fairness. New resources for emergency first responders in Southeastern San Diego are prioritized, thanks in part to funding for the temporary Skyline fire station to improve emergency response times.”**

- Police academy funding (4 academies, increased in size from 34 to 43 each), \$4 million
- Police officer retention program, \$3.2 million
- 17 police civilian positions, \$1.4 million
- Police body worn cameras, \$1 million
- 2 additional fire fighter academies (3 total), \$1.1 million
- Skyline Temporary Fire Station, \$1 million
- Fire Department Fast Response Program, \$600,000
- 4 lifeguards for Boating Safety Unit, \$500,000
- Lifeguard facility improvement, \$500,000

Transparency and Open Government

“This budget supports the City’s commitment keeping public records transparent and putting more City information online,” Faulconer said.

- Continued City email retention and storage, \$500,000
- Open Data Officer to oversee implementation of an open data policy and improve access to City information, \$200,000

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