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## **MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET**

### **MAYOR VOWS TO PUSH FOWARD “UNTIL THE HOUR I LEAVE OFFICE”**

*State of City speech promises bold action to eliminate budget deficit,  
reform pensions, create jobs, finish major building projects*

Mayor Jerry Sanders announced an ambitious agenda for his final year in office, promising to fight until his very last day as mayor and urging all San Diegans to embrace “the incredible opportunities we have in front of us.” He also thanked the huge array of people – from community leaders and elected officials to ordinary San Diegans – who have made the city’s success possible.

“We have to be fearless in fighting for our city’s future,” the mayor declared in his annual State of the City speech at downtown’s Balboa Theater.

The city’s decades-old structural deficit will be history before the mayor leaves office, Sanders vowed, thanks to his administration’s relentless efforts to streamline government and cut costs. Sanders also promised to continue championing his pension reforms and successful jobs-creating initiatives while also charging ahead on the city’s four biggest projects: The new Central Library, the Convention Center expansion, the Plaza de Panama renovation and a new multi-use stadium that would serve as home to the San Diego Chargers.

“I’m not done here – not by any means,” the mayor said.

#### **Structural deficit**

Sanders promised to present a budget in April that, for the first time in 30 years, eliminates the city’s structural deficit and clears the path for balanced budgets for the foreseeable future. The mayor’s vigorous efforts to streamline city services have made this success possible. Some 1,700 city positions have been eliminated and managed competition has produced annual savings of \$5 million while maintaining or in some cases increasing service levels.

Meanwhile, the mayor's pension reforms are expected to save \$22 million a year when fully implemented, while a 2011 landmark agreement to reform retiree health care will save an estimated \$700 million over the next 25 years, making it the single largest cost-saving measure in city history.

### **Improving Government Through Technology**

In his speech, the mayor revealed a new initiative to improve city government through technology. In an open-to-the-public competition called the AT&T San Diego Apps Challenge, software developers will use city and partner data to create applications that enhance public services and improve quality of life for San Diegans.

Winners of the competition will split a total of \$50,000 in prize money donated by challenge sponsors AT&T, San Diego Gas & Electric and CONNECT. The contest is open to amateur, professional and student developers, who will use data provided by the city and several partners to develop the apps.

### **Creating Jobs**

Sanders also promised to continue his successful commitment to initiatives that help businesses create jobs in San Diego. One such area, the mayor noted, is in the field of green technologies, a field that includes companies such as Soitec, a solar manufacturer that brought 450 jobs to San Diego by choosing the city as its North American headquarters in 2011. With initiatives ranging from streetlight upgrades to the city's Car2Go electric-car-sharing program, the city finds itself on the cutting edge of the low-carbon economy – an economy poised for robust jobs growth.

### **The Big Projects**

The mayor also vowed to press forward with the major building projects that will shape and expand the city's horizons for generations.

Central Library: In his speech, Sanders announced that enough money has been raised to finish the new Central Library, which is scheduled to open in the summer of 2013. It will be finished on time, under budget and without the expenditure of a single penny from the city's General Fund.

Convention Center: The mayor vowed to work tirelessly toward the vital goal of expanding the Convention Center, a project that is essential to attracting lucrative new conventions and retaining signature events such as Comic-Con. In addition to creating 7,000 jobs, the expansion will produce a net gain of \$9 million in annual tax revenues that can go toward vital public services such as police and firefighting, parks and rec centers. As it stands, the convention center loses out on a year's worth of business every year because of its size limitations.

Plaza de Panama: The city will also move forward with the bold idea to protect and enhance Balboa Park by separating cars from pedestrians in the Plaza de Panama. Instead of an oil-stained parking lot, the Plaza will be transformed – without a penny's cost to taxpayers – into a

pedestrian-friendly promenade where visitors can immerse themselves in the plaza's architecture and landscaping.

New Regional Multi-Use Stadium: The mayor also promised to continue his ongoing efforts to keep the Chargers where they belong – in San Diego, playing in a new regional multi-use stadium that meets the goals of both the team and the taxpayers. Sanders and the Chargers are proposing to build the stadium on the MTS bus yard site near the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Imperial Avenue. The stadium would serve as the anchor of a larger sports-entertainment district. Sanders has hired a financial consulting firm to develop a plan that would not include any new taxes.

“We will be fearless and we’ll finish what we’ve started, closing the deal on civic projects that take San Diego to the next level of greatness,” the mayor said. “We can and we will do this. I know it, because in only a few years we’ve shown the world that San Diego can overcome any obstacle in its path.”

The mayor took office in 2005 in the midst a wave of financial problems and criminal probes that prompted the *New York Times* to dub the city “Enron By the Sea.” Under the mayor’s leadership, San Diego has regained its good credit on Wall Street, quadrupled its reserves and recently embarked on one of the most ambitious streets-repaving projects in city history. *Governing Magazine* cited San Diego as a model for other cities, noting that its transformation from scandal to success “would have been impossible to imagine a few years ago.”

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