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MAYOR BOB FILNER CITY OF SAN DIEGO

JUDGE RULES IN FAVOR OF MAYOR FILNER: MAYOR DOES NOT HAVE TO SIGN CONTRACT!

(SAN DIEGO, March 22, 2013) – A Superior Court Judge ruled that Mayor Bob Filner has the discretion to not sign a contract that would funnel about \$30 million from a hotel occupancy tax to the San Diego Tourism Marketing District.

“I must protect the interest of the taxpayers,” Mayor Filner said. “Without significant changes to this flawed contract, the taxpayers would be on the hook if a future court rules that the hotel tax is illegal.”

“As I’ve said all along, I am willing to sit down and negotiate new terms that protect the taxpayers, protect the City and continue to pay for marketing the San Diego region as a tourist destination, without the unnecessary threat of employee layoffs.”

Following oral arguments in court today, Judge Timothy Taylor reaffirmed his tentative ruling published yesterday.

“Getting an agreement done quickly would be in the City’s and the Tourism Marketing District’s best interest,” Mayor Filner said. “Together, we could protect the taxpayers’ wallets and get the money flowing to the Tourism Marketing District quickly in order to market our beautiful City to tourists everywhere.”

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