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MAYOR BOB FILNER
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**MAYOR BOB FILNER HIRES
NATIONALLY-RENOWNED PLANNER BILL FULTON
TO HEAD THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING AND NEIGHBORHOOD RESTORATION!**

Mayor Bob Filner today introduced Bill Fulton as the City's new Director of the Planning and Neighborhood Restoration Department during a morning meeting with City staff.

Fulton is California's leading planning expert and a nationally-renowned urban planner with decades of experience in city planning. He is a leader in the movement for smart growth and transit-oriented development. In 2009, he was named by Planetizen as one of the 100 most important urban thinkers.

"Bill will lead this City in a new direction," Mayor Filner said. "His creativity, thought-provoking ideas and practical solutions are what we need to move this City away from complacent and decades-old planning processes to innovative and flexible plans that will unleash the expertise of city planners and the imagination of the citizens."

In a long and distinguished career, Fulton has been a journalist, a researcher and author, a college professor, an entrepreneur and small business owner, a leading consultant on urban planning and economic development, and a mayor. He currently serves as Vice President for Policy at the advocacy group Smart Growth America in Washington, D.C., and as a Principal in The Planning Center | DC&E, one of California's leading planning consulting firms.

"I'm really looking forward to working with the Mayor and restoring a strong planning arm in order to make San Diego a prosperous, sustainable and equitable City," Fulton said.

"San Diego has a great tradition of city planning and city building dating back more than a century, from the creation of the John Nolen plan in 1908 all the way up to the efforts under Gail

Goldberg and Bill Anderson,” he added. “Over the last 20 years, I’ve seen a transformation in San Diego from an auto-oriented place into a 21st Century city that has embraced neighborhoods. San Diego is truly becoming a “City of Villages” and through that, a model for other cities.”

As a private business owner, public servant, and national advocate, Fulton has helped communities all over California and the nation make the transition away from traditional suburban development and toward a “smart growth” approach that focuses on vibrant, walkable neighborhoods, and sustainable and equitable economic growth.

As a city councilmember and mayor in Ventura, Fulton championed the passage of an all-infill general plan, a revised growth management system, and an innovative effort to incubate high-tech businesses in the downtown.

He is the author of several important books on urban planning, including *The Reluctant Metropolis: The Politics of Urban Growth in Los Angeles*; *The Regional City: Planning of the End of Sprawl* (co-authored with Peter Calthorpe); and the textbook *Guide to California Planning* (4th edition published last year). He is also a Senior Fellow at the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California; the founding editor and publisher of *California Planning & Development Report*; and an economic development columnist for *Governing* magazine.

Fulton holds graduate degrees in journalism/public affairs from The American University in Washington, D.C., and urban planning from UCLA in Los Angeles.

Fulton will start working for the City on July 8.

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