



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **QUALCOMM STADIUM ENFORCES FAN CODE OF CONDUCT**

**105 ARRESTED AND OVER 250 EJECTED DURING THE CHARGERS AND BEARS GAME**

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Police Department and Qualcomm Stadium security forces were busy during the Chargers and Bears game on Sunday, September 9. The two organizations combined for 105 arrests, 255 ejections and 23 vehicle citations.

“The vast majority of the ejections were a result of the No Smoking Ordinance,” said Erik Stover, Qualcomm Stadium Manager. “The ordinance was passed about a year ago and we were receiving complaints from fans about a lack of strong enforcement.” Security’s approach last year was to educate and warn violators. “We hoped that all of the warnings would be effective, but it became clear that we weren’t going to change the culture without getting tougher,” added Stover.

The San Diego Police Department also made 22 alcohol related arrests and cited 23 people for illegal use of handicapped parking placards.

“These are average numbers for us for a regular season Chargers game,” said Joel Bryden, Assistant Chief of Police in charge of special events. “The big increase in activity came with the ejections for violating the smoking ordinance. Private security took the lead in the enforcement of the ordinance; while our officers enforced smoking violations only as time permitted and public safety related incidents were not occurring.”

SDPD and Stadium Security took a low tolerance approach to smoking violators on Sunday by ejecting them on the spot if they were caught smoking in unauthorized areas. Staff also circulated flyers to people preparing to light up that warned them about the ordinance. “This law was passed for several reasons and we have an obligation to make the Stadium safe and enjoyable for everyone,” added Stover.

Qualcomm Stadium is owned and operated by The City of San Diego. With a seating capacity of 70,561 Qualcomm Stadium is located in the heart of Mission Valley, minutes from downtown San Diego. The Stadium is host to San Diego Charger and SDSU Aztec football, the Holiday Bowl, the Poinsettia Bowl and more.

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