




**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD  
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 29, 2018

TO: Shelley Zimmerman, Police Chief

FROM: Councilmember Christopher Ward, Chair, Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee 

SUBJECT: Response to Border Wall Prototype Protection Support

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Thank you for your memorandum dated January 23, 2018 which outlined your perspectives on necessity and direction taken to use departmental resources for the purposes of guarding the property and space surrounding the border wall prototypes. I appreciate your response to my January 8th memorandum, although three of the four questions were unaddressed:

- Was the analysis by the Union-Tribune and others correct in its conclusions?
- Why were expenditures permitted inconsistent with City of San Diego Resolution R-2018-88?
- What corrective actions will the City take to ensure further city taxpayer funds or resources be used to support, directly or indirectly, the development of the wall prototypes?

I agree with your sentiments expressed to President Trump in your September 11, 2017 letter. Many of the issues fueled by President Trump and facilitated through social media organization have stressed communities and put citizens and law enforcement officials at risk. I value and hold in highest regard the continued readiness of San Diego Police Department personnel to prepare for occasions that require action to protect all persons and property from tense expressions of public opinion and those that infiltrate assemblies to disrupt or commit violent acts. As you indicate in your response, because of good preparation and assistance, this freedom of expression has been successfully afforded for our community almost daily.

As you noted, the Trump Administration did not respond to your letter. And while the preparation of contingencies is always prudent, the expenditure of nearly \$300,000 of City funds for this purpose was not justified:

- The prototypes are not even within the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego. This demands the question how far outside our city limits and for what purposes resources may be unilaterally directed.
- The prototype construction was directed by the federal government who should be responsible and accountable for the security of their activity. Additionally, there was no sign of legitimate organization for action near the property that would have warranted the stated level of personnel overtime, ammunition and other expense.

Most importantly, decisions like this underscore the challenges we perceive and disagree with in departmental priorities and decision making. I appreciate that department directors have broad authority to allocate resources as she or he sees appropriate. However, I have been requesting for some time assistance for additional police presence in community parks or in our neighborhoods to deter crime and respond to quality of life issues. We know that loitering and criminal acts have risen and communicated impacted areas in need. The response has generally been attributed to lack of funding and resources; yet, overtime clearly has been made available and personnel directed for purposes like the Border Wall. Why not use that same resource to address an actual request for police support to address a known problem to support our neighborhoods directly?

Therein lies the point of our work to establish our City's position on the Border Wall and guidance for policy under R-2018-88. This does involve trade-off, and the needs of San Diegans should be prioritized in all of our actions. I appreciate your consideration of corrective actions to ensure that City taxpayer funds or resources will not be further used for this purpose.

Thank you for exploring options for San Diego Police Department to be reimbursed for expenses occurred. Please keep us informed should that outcome occur.

cc:  
Kevin Faulconer, Mayor  
Mara W. Elliott, City Attorney  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst  
Rolando Charvel, Chief Financial Officer  
Almis Udrys, Office of the Mayor  
Marshall Anderson, Office of the Mayor