



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

**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER GEORGETTE GÓMEZ  
NINTH COUNCIL DISTRICT**

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

DATE: January 8, 2018

TO: Mayor Kevin Faulconer

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

Councilmember Georgette Gómez, Ninth Council District

SUBJECT: Use of City Funds and Resources to Support Border Wall Prototype

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As was first reported in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*<sup>1</sup> on January 5, 2018, the City of San Diego appears to have expended at least \$278,000 in funds to protect the prototypes of President Trump's border wall. This has been further reported and analyzed by a number of media outlets across Southern California, shining a negative light on the City of San Diego.

As you know, the City passed Resolution R-2018-88 on October 5, 2017 to clearly express opposition to Executive Order 13767 and H.R. 1813. This resolution made clear the position of the City and our intent to defend the economic, environmental, and civic interests of our communities. Furthermore, the staff analysis<sup>2</sup> noted under Citywide Impact, among other declarations:

- San Diego taxpayer funds should not be used to support costly construction or irreparable damage to the environment.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/watchdog/sd-me-watchdog-wall-20180102-story.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://bit.ly/2Fez3Cx>

- City residents deserve to know how the City's public funds are being spent, and if they are supporting individuals or entities involved in the construction or operation of the Border Wall.

It is questionable, then, how funds were authorized for activities related to security and related functions to guard the enhanced border wall prototypes. This would be antithetical to our City's established position, and is further objectionable as the subject prototypes *are not even located within the city limits*. In order to understand what occurred and what may be corrected for the future to not expend limited general fund dollars on this objectionable endeavor of President Trump, we ask that staff answer the following questions:

- Was the analysis by the *Union-Tribune* and others correct in its conclusions?
- Who authorized the expenditure of funds?
- Why were expenditures permitted inconsistent with R-2018-88?
- What corrective actions will the City take to ensure no further city taxpayer funds or resources will be used to support, directly or indirectly, the development of the wall prototypes?

We thank you for your past support in defense of the City of San Diego's interests related to immigration and border policy, and appreciate your continued leadership critical to the well-being of our communities and our constituents.

Cc:  
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