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NEWS RELEASE

Mayor Faulconer Highlights Forbes Report Ranking San Diego as the Top Place to Launch a Startup in 2014

San Diego, CA – Highlighting today's *Forbes* news report ranking the City of San Diego as the number one place in America to launch a startup in 2014, Mayor Kevin Faulconer released the following statement:

"It's no secret to San Diego's entrepreneurs and startup community that San Diego is a great place to start a business. This is just a reminder that we need to continue to foster a fertile environment for small businesses to grow. I encourage our City Council to take note and work with me to encourage more of America's entrepreneurs and startup community to make San Diego home."

The *Forbes* startup business report determines which U.S. cities are the most welcoming to small business owners based on criteria available within the Radius database. The Radius database analyzes billions of data on businesses across the U.S. each day. Forbes complied the list based on (1) small businesses as a percentage of total business, (2) percentage of small businesses that accept credit cards, (3) percentage of small businesses in high growth industries, (4) percentage of small businesses with Facebook pages and websites, and (5) percentage of businesses with online reviews.

The report arrives as the San Diego City Council is poised to review several important issues that critically affect the city's small businesses. Earlier this week, Faulconer urged the city council to make it a priority to keep small businesses in San Diego when considering these issues, including raising the local minimum wage. Based on that criteria analyzed in *Forbes*, several cities behind San Diego including Denver (2nd) and Austin, Texas (3rd) may be seen as competition for new business and jobs. Also the making the list in California includes San Francisco (6th) and San Jose (12th).

To read the *Forbes* report online, click here: http://www.forbes.com/sites/tompost/2014/03/13/the-best-places-to-launch-a-startup-in-2014/

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