NEWS RELEASE

Faulconer Ends Proposed Email Purge
New mayor rescinds order, pledges to keep City Hall transparent

San Diego, CA – Today, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer declared a new era of open government in San Diego by officially rescinding a proposed policy that would eliminate any City of San Diego email more than a year old.

"My mission is to increase openness and transparency at City Hall, and this is just one of the first steps," Faulconer said. "I reviewed the policy and believe the public's right to have access to City documents is worth the additional financial cost that will come with retaining these emails. In today's modern age, I believe San Diego can be a leader in using technology to increase transparency."

The policy Faulconer rescinded, which was initiated days before he took office, would have directed the City to start the process of deleting vast amounts of emails beginning March 28, 2014. One of Faulconer's first acts after being sworn in as mayor was to place the policy, known as Administrative Regulation 90.67, on hold pending further review. Faulconer's decision today will ensure that none of the City's existing emails are eliminated.

The City recently switched to a new email system in January 2014 that allows the City to retain City emails for an unlimited amount of time. The problem facing the City has been with how to store and maintain the information contained in two older email systems, including one with a significant amount of corrupted data.

The Faulconer administration has been working with the City's IT staff, leaders in the local tech community and the City's current vendor, Microsoft, to find the most cost-effective way to store this older data in perpetuity. New cost estimates to store the old emails are being reviewed by City staff, with a majority of the expenses expected to be one-time.

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