



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Faulconer Commemorates 100 Days in Office by Signing ‘One San Diego’ Budget

Mayor Follows Through on Pledge to Put Neighborhoods First

San Diego, CA – Today Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer marked his 100th day in office by signing his *One San Diego* budget, which focuses on rebuilding the City and restoring neighborhood services, at the same location where he was sworn in as San Diego’s 36th mayor.

“I said on Day One that we were writing a new chapter in San Diego, a chapter written by and for the people of San Diego,” Faulconer said. “That chapter officially begins today with a budget that ensures all residents have equal access to economic prosperity, quality City services and safe neighborhoods. There is something for every San Diegan and every neighborhood in this budget.”

Faulconer was joined by community leaders and City employees for the budget-signing ceremony at the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation. On March 3, Faulconer took the oath of office at the Jacobs Center and pledged a neighborhoods first emphasis that includes investments in public safety, infrastructure and services.

“We hit the ground running to put that promise into action by aggressively funding infrastructure and neighborhood repairs throughout the City, especially in neighborhoods that needed them the most,” Faulconer said.

The budget highlights include investing more than 50 percent of major General Fund revenue growth in infrastructure and neighborhood repairs; doubling the amount of pothole repairs annually; increasing library hours to their highest level in a decade; creating an after-school program for children in communities working to increase student performance; recruiting more police officers and firefighters than in any year in recent history; and significant funding for new fire stations and park improvements.

In addition, Faulconer appointed the Shelley Zimmerman as the first female chief in San Diego Police Department history; renegotiated the City’s contract with its ambulance provider to significantly improve emergency response times in South Bay neighborhoods; eliminated a proposal to delete City emails that were

more than a year old; shifted a larger share of federal grant money toward neighborhood improvements; strengthened economic ties with Mexico; and focused homeless spending on wrap-around services that will help people get off the street and into housing.

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Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer: First 100 Days in Office

CONTINUING REFORM

✓ Proposed a Reform-Based Budget That Puts Neighborhoods First

- *More than 50 percent of major General Fund revenue growth is dedicated to infrastructure and neighborhood repair efforts*
- *Includes savings from pension reform and managed competitions*
- *Maintains five-year pensionable pay freeze*
- *Balanced budget using fiscally responsible practices; funds reserves*

This spring Mayor Faulconer released his first *One San Diego* budget proposal, which directs more money toward streets, neighborhood services and public safety. The fiscal year 2015 proposed budget puts neighborhoods first by prioritizing infrastructure repair and construction; funding critical police, fire and lifeguard needs; increasing funding for libraries, parks and a new after-school program; supporting homeless services; and enhancing transparency and open data initiatives. The \$2.97 billion budget is balanced using fiscally responsible practices and continued savings from fiscal reforms. The spending plan also pays for neighborhood services without sacrificing the sound fiscal strategies that helped bring San Diego back from the brink of bankruptcy.

✓ Creating a Culture of Efficiency and Effectiveness

- *New department focused on managed competition and streamlining City operations*
- *Implementing data-driven solutions*

Mayor Faulconer proposed a new Department of Performance and Analytics to focus on managed competition, government efficiencies, performance measures and strategic planning. Analytics staff will review department practices and policies to determine the most efficient way to conduct business,

consolidate delivery of redundant services, and realize the maximum potential of new technologies that the City has implemented.

REBUILDING SAN DIEGO

✓ Doubling Down on Pothole Repairs

- *Projected to double to 200,000 square feet the amount of asphalt repaired annually*
- *16 additional workers for pothole repair for a total of nine crews citywide, including 14 for asphalt repair (big potholes larger than 4x4 feet) and creating an additional two-person pothole repair crew (small potholes)*

Mayor Faulconer is expanding the City's new Regional Pothole Program, which repairs potholes by neighborhood rather than waiting for complaints from residents. These changes are among several enhancements in the budget plan aimed at rebuilding San Diego's neighborhoods.

✓ Prioritized Federal Funds for Neighborhood Improvements

- *Increased infrastructure funding from federal improvement grants by 33 percent, or \$3.6 million annually*
- *Boosts funding for streetlights, sidewalks and fire stations*

On April 28, the City Council approved the first of many measures that support Mayor Faulconer's *One San Diego* vision, including a plan that redirects approximately \$11 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development toward the City's infrastructure needs. CDBG funds are available for neighborhood improvements, such as streetlights, sidewalks and fire stations. The plan is part of the Mayor's focus on infrastructure, particularly in underserved communities.

PUTTING NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST

✓ Restoring Library Hours

- *Boosting library service hours to the most in 10 years, adding 203 hours of library service per week citywide*

Mayor Faulconer's budget plan significantly increases library hours to 48 hours per week for the first time since 2003 and strategically expands library services on weekends. Every branch library in San Diego will add four service hours Monday through Saturday. In addition to these hours, 12 select branches will extend hours on Saturday and Sunday. The Central Library will add five hours per week.

✓ Creating a New After-School Program

- *Targeted to communities working to raise student achievement*

- *One-on-one assistance to targeted K-8 students from area schools with their school-assigned homework*
- *36 weeks per school year at 18 libraries*

Leading a collective effort to re-establish the City's libraries as centers for learning and civic engagement for San Diego children, Mayor Faulconer funded the City's first comprehensive after-school program. The *Do Your Homework @ the Library Program* provides one-on-one assistance to children at targeted K-8 schools in San Diego for school-assigned homework. It adds a learning coordinator at 18 San Diego libraries where curriculum-aligned resources, technology and community partnerships work in tandem to support students. The program capitalizes on San Diego public library equipment, staff, Wi-Fi access and digital resources, including the *HelpNow!* online tutoring program.

✓ **Building New Parks, Streetlights and Sidewalks**

- *New parks and lighting improvements in City Heights, Otay Mesa, Tierrasanta and Black Mountain Ranch*
- *\$2.4 million for new streetlights and sidewalks across San Diego*

Mayor Faulconer has focused his budget on projects that improve the quality of life for San Diego families. New sidewalks and streetlights will be installed citywide, and communities across the City will be able to enjoy new park space thanks to funding in the Mayor's budget plan.

PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY

✓ **Named Shelley Zimmerman as San Diego Police Chief**

- *First female police chief in San Diego Police Department history*
- *Decisive action kept stable leadership in SDPD following Chief Lansdowne's resignation*
- *Zimmerman is committed to reforming SDPD and ensuring integrity among its officers*

In line with his campaign pledge to create strong and safe neighborhoods, Mayor Faulconer named 31-year veteran Shelley Zimmerman as the first female chief in SDPD history. The nomination stands as an important piece in his commitment to a fresh approach amid a police department facing several problems, including recruiting, retention and equipment issues.

✓ **Rebuilding the San Diego Police Department**

- *Budget proposes solutions for SDPD recruitment and retention crisis*
- *Four police academies, increased in size from 34 to 43 each*
- *\$3.2 million police officer retention program*

With approximately half of the SDPD set to retire in the next four years, Mayor Faulconer's budget provides critical police department funds. Understanding that it is extremely important to keep experienced officers in a competitive market, Mayor Faulconer's budget helps to retain veteran officers and recruit the best and brightest in San Diego.

Mayor Faulconer's budget addresses the need to provide support staff and adds civilian staff for communications and crime lab support. Civilian crime lab staff helps officers quickly identify suspects, and civilian communications staff improves police department response time. In addition to these positions, Police Investigative Service Officers (PISOs) work with sworn officers to address lower-priority and quality-of-life crimes, such as illegal parking complaints and graffiti. This allows officers to take care of higher-priority calls and crimes.

✓ **Funding Body Cameras for Police Officers**

- *Bringing innovative solutions for transparency and accountability in SDPD*

Helping tackle issues related to safe neighborhoods and transparency, Mayor Faulconer allocated \$2 million in the City's budget for body cameras that monitor officers' interactions with the public. The cameras will help protect the police from erroneous complaints and protect the public by holding officers accountable for their actions.

✓ **Adding More Firefighter Emergency Equipment and Fire Stations**

- *Taking action to build much needed fire stations, starting in Southeastern San Diego*
- *Two additional firefighter academies and \$700,000 for firefighter protective gear and emergency equipment*
- *Moving forward with innovative "Fast Response Squad"*

Mayor Faulconer's budget plan puts into action his belief that no matter where you live in San Diego, you deserve to feel safe. His budget proposal prioritizes resources for emergency first responders in Southeastern San Diego where response times have historically been among the slowest. He set aside \$1 million to build a temporary fire station in Skyline while a permanent facility is being planned and proposed a "Fast Response Squad" pilot program in Encanto to provide additional emergency response support to the community.

✓ **Improved Emergency Medical Service Response Times**

- *Faster response times to South Bay residents by over 1 minute*
- *More transparent and clear-cut contract between the City and Rural/Metro ambulance service provider*
- *Ensuring that every neighborhood in San Diego gets the same quality of service*

On April 28, the City Council approved Mayor Faulconer's proposal which calls for a one-year extension of the City's ambulance contract with several improvements. First, the City eliminated a provision that prevented it from imposing financial penalties for excessive response times whenever 13 or more simultaneous medical emergency calls occur. Second, an ambulance unit was added to serve South Bay neighborhoods that have consistently had some of the worst ambulance response times in the city.

✓ **Backing Proven Solutions for Homelessness**

- *Reallocated and increased funding for homeless services*
- *Renewed focus on programs that provide services to end homelessness*

Mayor Faulconer budgeted funds to help deliver comprehensive homeless services that provide wrap-around services people need to find permanent housing. His *One San Diego* budget reflects a renewed focus on permanent solutions to ending homelessness. In all, he reallocated over \$2 million toward a combination of programs and shelters that connect the homeless with housing opportunities and rehabilitative services including funds for the adult winter shelter, a homeless management information system, a homeless check-in center, the SDPD serial inebriate program, a SDPD Homeless Outreach Team, Connections Housing, and 25 emergency beds for the SDPD Homeless Outreach Team to offer to homeless individuals.

CREATING AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT

✓ Streamlining City Communications

- *Creating a City Hall that speaks with one voice*

Part of a City Council-approved plan to improve government operations, Mayor Faulconer is bringing all the City's public information officers under one roof. The Communications Department restructure consolidates all of the City's existing communication-related functions into one department to provide improved service to the media and public.

✓ Ended the Proposed Email Purge

- *Focus on increasing government transparency*
- *Reaffirmed the public's right to access City documents*

On March 18, Mayor Faulconer declared a new era of open government by officially rescinding a proposed policy that would have eliminated all City of San Diego emails more than a year old. Mayor Faulconer's decision ensured that none of the City's emails are eliminated. The Faulconer administration continues to work 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 data in perpetuity.

GROWING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

✓ Strengthening Economic Ties with Mexico

- *Expanding binational economic growth opportunities*

In March 2014, Mayor Faulconer met with Tijuana Mayor Jorge Astiazarán, the Tijuana City Council, the Tijuana Economic Development Corporation (EDC/DEITAC) and key business leaders of the Tijuana/Binational Community. He pledged to continue to hold regular mayoral and high-level staff meetings with Mexican and Tijuana leadership. Together, the sister-city mayors discussed plans to work together on the binational railroad, an enhanced driver's license program, funding for land ports of entry, comprehensive immigration reform and other important border projects including city border infrastructure, the San Ysidro port of entry expansion, pedestrian border access, road quality issues and lighting issues. Mayor Faulconer promised to defend this federal proposal, continue efforts to streamline the border crossing process and expand the flow of goods throughout the Cali-Baja region.

✓ Changed How City Does Business with Vendors

- *Increasing competition among bidders and lower prices for the city*

- *Helping to end unnecessary backlogs and delays*

In the past, the City of San Diego made every purchase through the Purchasing and Contracting Department (P&C) regardless of how small the purchase price. This process resulted in significant backlogs and unnecessary delays. On April 14, the City Council approved Mayor Faulconer's proposal that authorizes each City department to process lower-level purchases up to \$25,000 while retaining appropriate procurement oversight. This empowers the City's departments and allows the department to spend more time on larger purchases, resulting in better research, planning, scheduling and procurement of critical items.

✓ **Re-establishing Economic Development Department**

- *Single department focused on helping local businesses grow and hire*

Mayor Faulconer is committed to fostering economic prosperity throughout San Diego. His proposal to re-establish the Economic Development Department will create a single department to focus on business retention and expansion, economic development issues and identifying opportunities with local, national, and international stakeholders. This reorganization will allow the revised Planning and Neighborhoods Department to focus on California Environmental Quality Act requirements, community plan updates and urban design efforts.

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