



Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee PRESS RELEASE

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San Diego and Tijuana officials announce first-ever binational joint Economic Development Committee meeting in San Diego

SAN DIEGO --- San Diego and Tijuana officials will convene today at San Diego City Hall for San Diego's first-ever binational joint meeting of the San Diego Committee on Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations and the Tijuana Economic Development Commission.

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer hailed this as an historic day for the region, and only the beginning of a long and productive relationship between the City of San Diego and the City of Tijuana in creating a regional economic hub. **"Today we are uniting two cities and two countries around one goal, which is creating economic opportunities for families in the San Diego-Tijuana region," Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer said. "Opportunity transcends borders and boundaries, so when it comes to creating good jobs for the people of San Diego and Tijuana, our partnership should know no bounds."**

Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, said, **"I've long been passionate about boosting economic development on both sides of the border, promoting our burgeoning binational megaregion and growing it as a hub of innovation. That's why I was so pleased to work with the Mayor, Councilmember Kersey and our counterparts in Tijuana to organize this meeting as a way to showcase all the economic development efforts taking place on both sides of the border."**

Today's meeting will feature presentations on Tijuana's strategic 20-year economic development plan, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce's Mexico Business Center, the Tijuana Economic Development Corporation's Calibaja Megaregion Initiative, the San Diego Regional Economic

Development Corporation's Global Competitiveness Strategy, and UC San Diego's update on the role of higher education in regional economic development.

Tijuana Councilmember Hector Riveros, Chair of the Tijuana Economic Development Commission, discussed his role in creating the 20 year strategic economic development plan for Tijuana. Riveros noted, **“the City of Tijuana has proposed different initiatives that promote investment in our city and have also resulted in increased employment opportunities for the Tijuana-San Diego region.”**

Councilmember Mark Kersey, Vice Chair of the Economic Development Committee, highlighted the importance of tapping into the unique opportunities being a binational mega region provides. **“It is only through collaboration and communication between our sister cities that this region can truly position itself as a worldwide economic powerhouse in manufacturing, innovation, biotechnology and renewable energy.”**

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