

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, July 14, 2022

**CONTACT:**

Ashley Bailey at [abailey@sandiego.gov](mailto:abailey@sandiego.gov)

# **First of its Kind Childcare Center for Law Enforcement Moving Forward**

## **NEW EXTENDED-HOURS CENTER TO SERVE POLICE PERSONNEL**

**SAN DIEGO** – In a historic move to provide better childcare options for City employees, a proposal to create the first-in-the-nation childcare center customized to meet the needs of law enforcement today was unanimously recommended for approval by the City Council’s Land Use and Housing Committee.

The childcare facility, initiated by the Police Officers Association and championed by Chief David Nisleit and Mayor Todd Gloria, will be the first to offer San Diego Police Department employees extended hours and affordable rates thanks to a public-private partnership.

**“I’m proud that the City of San Diego is showing leadership in addressing the unique challenges officers face in trying to balance family and work life,” said Mayor Todd Gloria. “Law enforcement is an incredibly demanding career, and easing officers’ childcare burden is just another way we are supporting our police officers to be successful both on the job and off.”**

The agreement would authorize KinderCare to operate a childcare facility leased to the POA in part of what is known as Police Plaza on Murphy Canyon Rd. that also serves as the hub for the Neighborhood Policing Division, SWAT Unit, police training, and other specialty police events.

**“Raising a family can be difficult for our officers and personnel who work long hours and get called out at all times and on weekends,” Police Chief David Nisleit said. “This new center is a great step toward making a career in law enforcement easier and more attainable for women and single parents. SDPD is grateful for our elected officials, the Police Officers Association and our philanthropic partners for moving this project forward.”**

The initiative is funded for three years and includes a \$3 million investment from State grants secured by Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins that were allocated in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, with additional philanthropic support from KinderCare and the Cushman Foundation's Making a Difference for San Diego grant program. The total for the three years is approximately \$3.7 million.

Recognizing the challenges law enforcement personnel face when balancing raising a family with nontraditional schedules, the program will offer extended operations from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. and allow for emergency callout services to the employee's home. The program will serve children ages 5 and under.

**"The SDPOA is determined to provide resources to our members and this facility has been a big priority for us," said SDPOA President Jared Wilson. "We have worked hard in strategizing this first-ever childcare facility and hope to lessen the financial barrier and stress for our officers."**

The childcare center will charge 50% market rate as well as pay childcare employees 20% above market rate salaries, making it affordable for SDPD personnel and offering more competitive wages for the childcare workers.

The new childcare center aligns with the City's Strategic Plan for creating equal access to opportunity and resources and furthers SDPD's efforts to recruit more women to join the San Diego Police Department. In 2021, SDPD joined agencies across the nation in signing on to the 30x30 Initiative to improve the representation of women in law enforcement.

The proposal will now move on to the full City Council for approval.

#### **WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE PROGRAM:**

##### **Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore**

"I am pleased to have secured \$3 million in State funding for this innovative childcare center for San Diego. Law enforcement officers face challenging schedules and a challenging work environment. The added stress of where to get childcare can be alleviated by this public-private partnership. I'm also pleased that the greater availability of childcare that this center will provide can enhance the recruitment of more women and single parents into the department."

##### **Councilmember Vivian Moreno**

"The costs of daycare are so expensive that any opportunity we have to help civil servants, like our police officers, to provide care for their children while they serve the people of San Diego should be something we invest in. This public-private partnership could be a model for future efforts to help provide all city employees with affordable daycare options."

##### **Councilmember Chris Cate**

"Our City's law enforcement employees continually go above and beyond to protect and serve the needs of all San Diegans. For those with young children, that level of dedication and sacrifice is even greater. This unique childcare facility will improve the lives of our hard-working SDPD personnel and hopefully attract potential new hires."

##### **Steve Cushman, Cushman Foundation**

"I want to congratulate Chief Nisleit and the Police Officers Association for their perseverance over the past few years in bringing this project to fruition. The Cushman Foundation's Making a Difference for San Diego grant awarded three years ago started the funding for this historic public/private partnership."

###