



News from

## Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego — District Three

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **City Council Unanimously Approves City Budget**

#### *Funding for Additional Library Hours, Art Programs, and Film Commission*

*SAN DIEGO (June 8, 2015)* – Councilmember Todd Gloria announced the City Council’s approval of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget with a General Fund of \$1.3 billion. The budget was approved by unanimous vote.

**“The budget approved by the Council today is reflective of the needs of San Diego’s neighborhoods and provides a fair distribution of services and projects across all council districts,”** said Councilmember Todd Gloria. **“As the City benefits from a better economy and increased revenues, I am pleased to see core services expanded and funding being invested back into our communities.”**

Councilmember Gloria advocated for several of the following budgetary priorities which were included in the approved budget.

- \$2,300,000 for additional library hours spread across 23 branches and the Central Library.
- \$1,000,000 for the Penny for the Arts Program.
- \$100,000 for an interim dog park at Ward Canyon Park in Mid-City while funding is identified for phase one of the permanent expansion.
- \$100,000 to fund a staff member to reinstate the City’s Film Commission and allow San Diego to take advantage of state tax credits.

As chair of the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee, Councilmember Gloria chaired the annual Budget Review Committee hearings throughout the month of May, during which community members provided feedback on how to improve the Mayor’s proposed budget. Throughout that process, the Council submitted budget prioritization memos to the Mayor playing a key role in the budget that was approved today.

The City Council continued their proven track record in fiscal responsibility as championed by Councilmember Gloria over his five years as Budget Committee chair. The budget fully funds all the City’s reserves to target levels. Sensible decisions including paying the City’s pension obligations in full and on time for eleven consecutive years and developing a prudent reserve policy have led to San Diego’s bond rating being upgraded twice since 2008 and will ensure the long-term financial health of the City.

Additionally, the Councilmember spoke to the lack of a long term strategy to fund the City’s infrastructure issues. The Mayor’s budget calls for \$29.2 million for street repairs and \$3.2 million for sidewalk repairs, but the City’s infrastructure backlog is at \$3.87 billion dollars and \$2.16 billion of that need lacks identified funding sources.

**“The lack of a comprehensive long-term solution to our multi-billion dollar infrastructure problem is the single greatest issue facing our City today,”** said Councilmember Gloria. **“I support efforts to continue to explore financing options on the 2016 ballot.”**

The FY 2016 budget also includes significant public safety funding including \$11.1 million dollars to implement the recently approved MOU with the San Diego Police Department, \$2.1 million dollars to expand the police worn body camera program, \$2.5 million for the operation of East Side Mission Valley Fire Station and the Skyline Temporary Fire Station, and several additional code enforcement officers to address substandard housing.

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