



COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

Press Release

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Committee Acts to Protect Local Military Operations

Focus on military's importance to the local economy

SAN DIEGO – The devastating effect potential defense cuts could have on San Diego's economy was front and center at today's Economic Development and Strategies Committee meeting.

Councilmember Sherri Lightner, who chairs the committee, said the focus was needed to help local military and business leaders as they work to fend off looming defense cuts.

The effort, dubbed "Operation San Diego," is the work of four San Diego business groups, including the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, CONNECT and the San Diego Military Advisory Council.

"We as elected officials need to sound the alarm loudly and repeatedly," Councilmember Lightner said. "We cannot just sit idly by and hope for the best. We as a region need to come together to protect one of our most important economic sectors – the military."

According to the San Diego Military Advisory Council, the military economy represents nearly 25 percent of the region's employment and more than 310,000 jobs. In fiscal year 2012, the military economy accounted for almost \$32 billion in local economic activity.

Proposed budgetary cuts could translate into 31,000 jobs lost in San Diego alone.

Councilmember Lightner's constant refrain at today's meeting was: What more can the San Diego City Council do to help our local military and business leaders?

As part of today's actions, the Economic Development and Strategies Committee passed a resolution endorsing the efforts to protect San Diego's local military economy. The resolution will next go to the full San Diego City Council for approval.

"This isn't just about symbolism. Our commitment is real, and we as a City Council need to provide tangible policies and support to these efforts. If we don't work together, we all lose," she said.

Mark Cafferty, president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, applauded Councilmember Lightner and the Committee for spotlighting the issue.

“As a region, we have a unique opportunity to lead the nation through this transitional period,” Cafferty said. “The success of ‘Operation San Diego’ is largely contingent on the mobilization and unification of the business and community leaders such as Councilmember Lightner in protecting those who so willingly protect us.”

Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.

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