

MAYOR KEVIN L. FAULCONER CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, Nov. 2, 2015

CONTACT: Craig Gustafson at (619) 453-9880 or <u>cgustafson@sandiego.gov</u>

NEWS RELEASE

Mayor Faulconer Opens First Fire Station Built in San Diego Since 2008

Fire Station Reflects Mayor's Increased Investment in Neighborhood Infrastructure

San Diego, CA – Delivering on his commitment to improve public safety in every neighborhood, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and several City Councilmembers today officially opened Fire Station #45 – serving the Mission Valley area – with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"My goal is to make sure the city is investing more in neighborhood infrastructure, and we're starting to see results with projects like this," said Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. "New fire stations are just one of many ways we're working to boost public safety in neighborhoods that need it most and to make sure we're providing a more equal level of service across the city."

Located north of Friars Road across the street from Qualcomm Stadium, the new permanent fire station replaces a temporary station that had been serving Mission Valley since March 2006. It will enhance the safety of neighborhood residents and nearby businesses while also providing the Fire-Rescue Department the ability to house additional engines and firefighters needed for future generations.

"I am proud to finally see the official opening of this state-of-the-art fire station that will serve the heart of Mission Valley where it is desperately needed," said City Councilmember Scott Sherman, whose district includes Mission Valley. Construction of Fire Station #45 began in 2014 and, including equipment and a new fire truck, the total cost was \$11.1 million. The 16,000-square-foot, two-story station has five vehicle bays, dorms for up to 16 firefighters and a new \$1.2 million fire truck. The facility will also house the Hazardous Materials apparatus currently stationed in Mira Mesa.

"The completion of this project shows that we are putting public safety at the forefront of our infrastructure investment and making good on our promise to rebuild San Diego," said City Councilmember Mark Kersey, Chair of the Infrastructure Committee.

The Mission Valley fire station is the first full-scale fire station built in the City of San Diego since 2008. The next new fire station scheduled to open is in the Bayside area along Pacific Highway in 2017.

"This station gives us so many opportunities to better serve the residents of Mission Valley and the City," said Fire-Rescue Chief Javier Mainar. "The addition of a truck here has been needed for some time and improves our response for fires and rescues. Moving the Hazardous Materials apparatus from Mira Mesa puts them in a more centralized location to be able to respond citywide. While we operated well from the temporary station, this facility is immeasurably better."

The opening of the new fire station comes on the heels of <u>last week's announcement</u> that emergency response times improved by an average of more than two minutes in the Southeastern neighborhood of Encanto with the implementation of the innovative Fast Response Squad pilot program.

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