

www.sdchamber.org



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Alison Phillips San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce P: 619.544.1381 C: 805.886.8594 aphillips@sdchamber.org

## **CHAMBER SUPPORTS CHARGERS INITIATIVE**

New stadium provides positive impact to regional business and jobs

**SAN DIEGO (July 28, 2016)** The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors today voted in support of the Chargers' plan to build a multi-use sports complex and convention facility in downtown San Diego.

"We take pride in being an action-oriented business organization that works to continually move our region forward," said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. "After a thorough review of the plan we believe the Chargers Initiative is the best step forward in meeting the challenge before us: keeping our NFL team in San Diego and enhancing our convention industry.

"For us, it's also a matter of civic pride, and the positive impact a new stadium would have on the East Village, Downtown, and the entire region," Sanders said.

A special ad-hoc committee appointed by Board Chair Ernesto Arredondo and chaired by Sanders met with Chargers representatives, partner organizations, and interested stakeholders to examine the plan and its potential impact. The committee made its recommendation today during the Board's regularly scheduled meeting, during which Chargers representatives made a special presentation and answered Board members' questions.

"Having the support from the respected membership of the Chamber, and Jerry in particular, is tremendously important to our success in November" said Chargers Chairman Dean Spanos.

"We recognize and appreciate the role the Chamber plays in regional business issues and we look forward to working together to make sure this project moves forward in a way that is in the best interest of businesses and the San Diego community as a whole."

A letter of support from Arredondo and Sanders was delivered to Spanos and outlined several considerations the Chamber requested be addressed by the Chargers. Among them:

- The Tourism Marketing District be made whole at 2 percent
- Scheduling of games to best accommodate large events in the city
- Replacement parking identified for removal of Tailgate Park
- Appropriate community outreach to address infrastructure needs
- Absolute protection of the City of San Diego's General Fund

In its review of the initiative the Chamber outlined several benefits the initiative offers:

- The important role an NFL team plays as a retention and attraction tool for business and employees
- The estimated 7,000 permanent and 15,000 construction and construction related jobs that will be created as a result of new stadium
- Additional space available for conventions
- Continued revitalization of Downtown and East Village

The Chamber will continue conversations with the Chargers as necessary to assist in addressing the outlined considerations and facilitating the community dialogue over the plan.

## **About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.

###







July 28, 2016

Dean A. Spanos Chairman of the Board San Diego Chargers 4020 Murphy Canyon Road San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Mr. Spanos,

On behalf of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to pledge our support for the Chargers Initiative.

After careful examination of the plan, through meetings with your organization and stakeholders by a specially-appointed ad-hoc committee, it was the decision of the Board to endorse the Chargers Initiative with a request to address outstanding concerns.

While uncertainty exists about infrastructure needs, maximizing tourism opportunities, and voter threshold, the Board determined those concerns were far outweighed by the positive impact a new downtown San Diego stadium would have on our region. We are optimistic that our concerns can be addressed through negotiation and coordination.

There are many advantages to a downtown stadium. Hosting future Super Bowls, continued revitalization of East Village, and adding capacity for convention business are just a few of the key benefits. The initiative also provides solutions for the long-term security of the Tourism Marketing District (TMD) and a potential funding source for a future contiguous convention center expansion, all while protecting the City of San Diego's General Fund. Most importantly, the success of this initiative will ensure the Chargers remain in San Diego.

With nearly 2,500 members representing approximately 300,000 employees, the Chamber is the largest nonprofit advocate for regional business. We recognize the significant influence an NFL team can have on the attraction and retention of companies and employees. We also acknowledge the thousands of jobs that will be created in construction, tourism and related services.

As such, the Board's formal position is to support the Chargers Initiative and request that the following considerations be addressed by the Chargers organization:

- Assure visitor industry that TMD will be made whole at 2 percent.
- Continue to work with the San Diego Convention Center Corporation and the San Diego Tourism Authority on resolving scheduling issues to accommodate large events.
- Include visitor industry in governance model.
- Use same management team to oversee both current and proposed convention center facilities.
- Consider a partnership or MOU with the City, Convention Center, and San Diego Padres to address coordination and shared responsibilities.
- Identify replacement parking resulting from the removal of Tailgate Park.
- Coordinate with the Padres to ensure that potential new benefits resulting from the passage of the initiative are also extended to them.
- Work with the community on bulk, scale, signage, planning, and infrastructure needs.
- Conduct traffic study and identify resources to address needs.
- Prohibit City General Fund dollars from being used for construction or operations of the new facility.
- Confirm there will be no exposure to the City's General Fund during an economic downturn.

We appreciate your work on the aforementioned items and offer our assistance in addressing these concerns. The Chargers belong in San Diego, and we look forward to being part of the team that keeps them here.

Sincerely,

Jerry Sanders President & CEO

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Ernesto M. Arredondo, Jr.

**Board Chair** 

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce