



402 West Broadway, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101-3585
p: 619.544.1300

www.sdchamber.org

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Contact:

Hayley Marting

559-514-1649

Hmarting@sdchamber.org

JERRY SANDERS TO RETIRE FROM CHAMBER AT THE END OF THE YEAR

Over his 12-year tenure, Sanders has raised the Chamber's profile, establishing it as the region's leading business advocacy organization.

SAN DIEGO (December 2, 2024) – The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce announced President and CEO Jerry Sanders will retire at the end of 2024 after a distinguished 12-year tenure leading the organization.

"Leading the Chamber has been such a privilege and I am very proud of all that we've accomplished," said **Jerry Sanders, President and CEO**. "I have to thank our Board of Directors, the extremely talented Chamber staff, and our members whose support and dedication to this organization has fueled our success."

Sanders joined the Chamber in 2012, after serving two terms as mayor of San Diego. He led the development of a robust and proactive policy agenda aimed at bolstering the Chamber's political clout and coalition building to advocate for legislation that is good for business. The organization grew in size and relevance, becoming a key support for businesses looking for access to government officials and seeking to build connections across the Cali-Baja region.

"On behalf of my fellow Board members, we express our heartfelt appreciation for Jerry's unwavering commitment to our business community and San Diego as a whole," said **Alessandra Lezama, Chamber Board Chair and Founder and CEO of TOOTRiS**. "Under his remarkable leadership, Jerry has transformed the Chamber into one of the most influential business advocacy organizations in the region. We are extremely grateful for his contributions. As we embark on the selection of our next Chamber President and CEO, I want to express the Board's enthusiasm and dedication to this important process. We understand the vital role this position plays in shaping the direction of our organization and, by extension, the future of our region."

The Chamber's Management Council will serve as the CEO Selection Committee and will work diligently to ensure a smooth, equitable, and transparent process to identify the strongest possible candidate. In the interim Jessica Anderson, current Chamber COO and Executive Vice President, will serve as acting President and CEO effective January 1, 2025. The Selection Committee is expected to have an appointment by February 27, 2025.

"The Chamber we know today is a testament to Jerry's strategic vision," said **Chris Howard, incoming Chamber Board Chair and CEO & President of Sharp HealthCare**. "The foundation Jerry has built positions the Chamber for much continued success in the years to come."

The Chamber will celebrate Jerry's leadership at the organization's annual Anniversary Celebration on February 27 where he will be given the Herb Klein Spirit of San Diego lifetime achievement award – the organization's top honor.

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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 more than 2,000 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to make the San Diego region the best place to live and work. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.