



Mayor Dick Murphy NEWS FOR RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Colleen Rudy

619.236.7060

David Hicks

619.236.5929

MAYOR MURPHY RESIGNS

San Diego - Mayor Dick Murphy today announced his resignation from office. The following is the speech he delivered announcing his decision:

Good Morning.

Thank you for coming.

I am today announcing I will step down as Mayor of San Diego on July 15, 2005. I truly believe this decision is in the best interests of San Diego.

During my first term in office, we accomplished a lot. We created three new entities which will have a positive impact on the lives of our citizens for years to come - the Ethics Commission, the San Diego Regional Airport Authority and the San Diego River Conservancy.

We built several landmarks - the downtown ballpark, State Route 56 and six libraries.

We improved San Diego's quality of life - cutting sewer spills, undergrounding power lines, and reducing violent crime.

When I ran for re-election, I had hoped that my second term would be as productive as the first. But that now seems unlikely.

It is clear the city needs a fresh start.

Next year will bring a change in government structure for the city.

I now believe to be effective the city will need a mayor elected by a solid majority of the voters and with a clear mandate.

A good leader knows when it is time to move on. It is time for me to move on and time for a fresh start of the city.

I selected the date of July 15 to step down for two reasons:

First, it will give me time to finish work on the Fiscal Year 2006 budget that needs to reduce the pension deficit, improve police and fire protection, and protect basic services like parks and libraries.

Second, it will allow the City Council sufficient time to set a special election for mayor that

can be consolidated with the expected November 8 statewide election.

I want to thank my mayoral staff who are here today. No one has ever had a more loyal, devoted and talented group of people.

To city employees, I want thank you for your hard work and dedication under adverse circumstances.

To my Council colleagues, I want to say thank you for working with me to solve the challenges facing the city. We accomplished a lot and I think history will recognize that.

To my friends and supporters, thank you for standing by me during these trying times and giving me your backing and words of encouragement.

To my family -- my wife Jan, my daughters Kelly and Shannon and my son Brian and his wife Patti -- I want to say a special thank you for your love and support that have sustained me through the last four-and-a-half years. I could not have done it without you.

Finally to the people of San Diego, thank you for giving me the privilege to be your mayor for the past four-and-a-half years. It has been an honor to serve you.

Thank you.

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