



June 18, 2014

For Immediate release

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**National City Council Places Continuation of Funding Measure on
November Ballot to Protect Essential City Services**
City Facing Possible Elimination of Local Police and Fire Departments

National City, CA – On Tuesday night the National City City Council unanimously approved placing the National City Continuation of City Services Funding Measure on the November 2014 ballot. Among other objectives, if enacted the Measure will ensure that National City retains their own local police and fire departments and retains adequate funding for parks, libraries and other vital City services – with no tax increase.

“Like many others in California, our city has faced tough financial challenges caused by State takeaways of local funds and a slowly recovering economy,” said National City City Manager Leslie Deese. “National City has reduced the overall number of police, firefighters and other employees, consolidated City departments, instituted pension reform and obtained employee concessions.”

In 2006, National City voters passed Proposition D, to support essential City services. Proposition D has provided a dedicated source of funding and has helped maintain National City’s own local police and fire departments and prevented cuts to 911 emergency response services. With Proposition D set to expire soon the City will lose \$10 million in local revenue.

“Public Safety is a top priority for National City residents,” National City Police Chief Manuel Rodriguez stated. “If we can’t extend Proposition D, we may have to face the fact that having a local Police Department may not be an option for National City. Contracting with the County for police services will mean longer response times and the elimination of our crime prevention programs.”

“This Measure is not a property tax and the majority of it is paid by the thousands of people who visit National City each day. The Measure will make sure that they pay their fair share for

using local services such as streets, parks and police protection,” said City Manager Deese.
“The extension of Proposition D will not raise taxes and will not be applied to food purchased as groceries or prescription medication.”

If adopted by voters, the National City Continuation of City Services Funding Measure would provide locally-controlled funds to protect and maintain essential city services. All funds from the measure would stay in National City for to prevent the closure of Fire Station #31, repair streets and remove graffiti, maintain community programs such as senior, youth and library services and maintain the City’s financial stability. None of the funds can be taken by the State or County.

“The National City Continuation of City Services Funding Measure includes tough fiscal accountability provisions including regular independent audits and a citizens’ oversight committee to ensure all funds are spent as promised and used for National City services only,” said Deese.

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