



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 3, 2008

**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
PRESS RELEASE**

**Sanders Appoints Darren Pudgil Director of Communications;
Fred Sainz to join Gill Foundation in Denver**

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced that he has appointed Darren Pudgil to serve as his new Director of Communications. Fred Sainz, the Mayor's Communications Director and Press Secretary since he took office has accepted a new position at the Gill Foundation in Denver, Colorado. Pudgil's first day in the Mayor's office will be Aug. 14, 2008.

Pudgil currently serves as Director of Communications to Congressman Brian Bilbray (R-Carlsbad). Prior to that, he worked for the County of San Diego for 13 years. From 1995 to 1999, Pudgil was Press Secretary for County Supervisor Greg Cox. From 1999 to 2007, he worked for County Supervisor Ron Roberts, first as Director of Communications then as Chief of Staff. He was a Field Representative for San Diego City Councilmember Judy McCarty from 1993-1995.

"Darren has a wide range of experience at the city, county and federal level and I am very excited to bring someone of his caliber on board to help us move our city forward," said Sanders. "He is bright, straightforward and is well respected by his colleagues in government as well as by those in the media."

Pudgil was born and raised in San Diego County. He is a graduate of Chula Vista High School and San Diego State University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism. He and his wife, Kimberly, reside in Escondido.

"As a result of Mayor Sanders' leadership, great strides have been made to restore the city's financial health," said Pudgil. "I am looking forward to helping the Mayor carry out his ambitious agenda for our city."

Pudgil will replace Fred Sainz, who is relocating to Denver, CO with his partner, Mike Tipton, and will be joining the Gill Foundation as Director of Communications & Marketing. During his tenure as the Mayor's Communications Director, Sainz, along with his team, was honored as the "PR Professionals of the Year" by the Public Relations Society of America for their work on the 2007 California Wildfires.

Mayor Sanders thanked Sainz for his dedication and commitment to his administration. "Fred has been an integral part of my team and I sincerely appreciate all his hard work. He has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the city and the success of our reform efforts. Fred's ability to process complicated policy issues and explain them clearly to the media and the public was a great asset to my administration," Sanders said.

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