



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of San Antonio Statement Regarding Breakthrough in Fire Union Contract Dispute

SAN ANTONIO (Oct. 13, 2016) — After three years of refusal by the San Antonio Professional Firefighters Association to begin negotiations over a new contract, the Fourth Court of Appeals today ordered the union and the City to mediate. The mediation order comes after the City appealed its lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the 10-year “evergreen clause” in the fire union’s now-expired contract.

“This is progress for the City, our taxpayers and the fire personnel who work hard to serve the San Antonio community,” City Manager Sheryl Sculley said. “We are happy the court recognized the City’s willingness to negotiate and ordered the union to come to the table.”

The order is as follows:

- The two parties must agree on a mediator within one week, or the court will appoint one.
- The parties must begin mediation within 60 days.

The fire union’s collective bargaining agreement with the City expired Sept. 30, 2014; however, because of a 10-year “evergreen clause” in the contract, the terms and benefits continue until 2024, regardless of how much those pay and benefits cost the taxpayers.

The City formally requested the fire union to begin negotiations eight times in the last three years. To date, the union has refused to come to the bargaining table. The Mayor and City Council have directed the City’s bargaining team to keep public safety spending at less than 66 percent of the General Fund budget.

The City reached a mediated settlement with the police union earlier this year that gave all officers pay raises, while, for the first time ever, having officers contribute to the cost of providing healthcare for their families.

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One San Antonio

Diverse, internationally connected and globally competitive, San Antonio has a vibrant culture and economy and is consistently ranked among the fastest-growing cities in the United States. America’s seventh-largest city offers opportunities in industries ranging from bioscience, financial services, aerospace, cybersecurity, energy and transportation manufacturing to healthcare. In 2016, San Antonio was named an All-America City by the National Civic League. We are “Military City USA,” home to crucial military commands supported by a patriotic citizenry. We welcome 32.5 million visitors annually who inject \$13.4 billion annually into our economy, and UNESCO recently designated the city’s Spanish colonial missions as a World Heritage Site. Celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2018, San Antonio is a city with a storied past and an even brighter future. For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov.