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**CONTACT:**

Executive Director Sharon Spivak, [sbspivak@sanidiego.gov](mailto:sbspivak@sanidiego.gov)

Ethics Commission Main Line: 619-533-3476

## **Ethics Commission Appoints New Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2025**

SAN DIEGO – Paul Cooper, an attorney and former City of San Diego Executive Assistant City Attorney, will be the next Chair of the San Diego Ethics Commission, serving a one-year term that begins today.

Jimmie Slack, whose decades of public service include work as Chief of Staff to a County of San Diego Supervisor and two San Diego City Councilmembers, will serve as the Commission's next Vice Chair for the same term.

Mr. Cooper is the Vice President and General Counsel of the RMD Group. Prior to that, he worked for the Office of the San Diego City Attorney for more than 23 years. He retired in May 2017 after serving as Executive Assistant City Attorney. Mr. Cooper began his career in that office as a prosecutor and was eventually promoted to Head Deputy City Attorney, overseeing the office's nationally recognized Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Unit. He also served as Senior Legal Advisor to the San Diego Police Department and spent nearly a decade as Counsel to then-Chief of Police William Lansdowne.

In 2002, Mr. Cooper successfully argued a case before the California Supreme Court on behalf of the City. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.A. in Political Science, received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, and then graduated with honors, Cum Laude, from the J. Reuben Clark School of Law at BYU.

"I am honored to have been chosen by my peers as the next Chair of the San Diego Ethics Commission," said Chair Cooper. "I look forward to continuing the important work being done by our Commissioners along with our dedicated Ethics Commission staff. By monitoring, administering, and enforcing the City's ethics laws, we help ensure the public that everyone is playing by the rules."

Mr. Cooper is in his third year serving on the Commission. He was appointed to the Commission in November 2021 and is in the middle of his first four-year term. He fills an attorney position and is registered as Decline to State. He served as the Commission's Vice Chair for the past two years.

As Chair, Mr. Cooper succeeds Caridad Sánchez, who served two terms leading the Commission's board. Her second term as Chair ends June 30, 2024. The longest serving member of the Commission, Ms. Sánchez has been an Ethics Commissioner since 2019. She will continue serving as a Commissioner until her second term expires June 30, 2027, at which point term limits will not allow for her reappointment.

"The Ethics Commission is crucial to upholding the San Diegans' faith in City government," said Sanchez. "I am honored to have been the chair and look forward to new committee leadership."

Mr. Slack has more than three decades of public service experience with the County of San Diego and City of San Diego. He served as Chief of Staff to former County Supervisor Leon L. Williams and held the same role for former San Diego City Council Presidents Tony Young and Myrtle Cole. He retired from the City of San Diego in 2018. Mr. Slack also worked as Regional Project Manager for Lockheed Martin/ACS State and Local Solutions. Mr. Slack received his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration/Management from San Diego State University.

Mr. Slack is a registered Democrat. He was appointed to the Commission in November 2021 and is in the middle of his first four-year term.

As longtime City employees, the Commission's new Chair and Vice Chair both also meet the Municipal Code requirement that the Commission include members with "familiarity and experience" with San Diego's ethics laws and regulations. Both previously fell under the Ethics Commission's regulatory jurisdiction as City employees.

Departing Chair Sánchez has served as Chair of the Ethics Commission since July 1, 2022. She is Chief of Public Affairs for Caltrans District 11, covering San Diego and Imperial Counties. She is the chief public relations, communications, and public information and legislative advisor to the District. She also serves as the District's focal point for providing products and services to the Caltrans External Affairs Division in Sacramento, the California State Transportation Agency, and the Governor's Office. Previously, she served as the San Diego and Imperial Counties Regional Director for United States Senator Barbara Boxer. Ms. Sánchez is a graduate of the University of San Diego with a degree in history and political science.

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The Ethics Commission is an independent City entity that is dedicated to monitoring, enforcing and reforming the City's ethics laws. The Commission has jurisdiction over City laws regarding ethics, campaign finance, and lobbying. Commission staff provide the

regulated community with education and advice regarding ethics laws, conduct investigations, audit City campaign committees, and work on reform of City laws. For more information about the Ethics Commission, please see the Commission's website at [www.sandiego.gov/ethics](http://www.sandiego.gov/ethics).