

For Immediate Release: Friday, July 26, 2013
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**MAYOR BOB FILNER
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

STATEMENT

Let me be absolutely clear:

The behavior I have engaged in over many years is wrong.

My failure to respect women and the intimidating conduct I engaged in at times is inexcusable.

It has undermined what I have spent my professional life working on: fighting for equality and justice for all people.

It is simply not acceptable for me to try to explain away my conduct as the product of the standards of a different generation.

I apologize to my staff.

I apologize to the citizens and staff members who have supported me over the years.

I apologize to the people of San Diego.

And, most of all, I apologize to the women I have offended.

Over the last week I have reached out to the men and women who served on my staff, and others who I have worked with over the years, and apologized for my behavior.

In addition, we have instituted changes in how the Mayor's Office is run.

However, words alone are not enough.

I am responsible for my conduct.

And I must take responsibility for my conduct by taking action so that such conduct does not ever happen again.

Beginning August 5th, I will be entering a behavioral counseling clinic to undergo two weeks of intensive therapy to begin the process of addressing my behavior.

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During this time period, I will be at the clinic fulltime – though every morning and every evening I will get briefing on City activities.

This intensive counseling will just be the first step in what will be a continuing program that will involve ongoing, regular counseling.

I must become a better person.

And my hope is that by becoming a better person I put myself in a position to someday be forgiven. However, before I can even think of asking for forgiveness, I need to demonstrate that my behavior has changed.

And that will only happen over time and only if such incidents never, ever happen again.

When I return on August 19th, my focus will be making sure I am doing right by this City in terms of being the best Mayor I can be – and the best person I must be.

Thank you.