

Excerpts from State of the County Address 2006

Delivered by Chairman, Supervisor Bill Horn, February 7, 2006

. . . My colleagues and I have a clear vision of where we want to go. We've traveled together on the same road for many years. We've handled financial bumps from the State, overcome the challenges of 911 and still, we continue to get the job done.

But there is still work to be done. The top priorities are Traffic, Public Safety, Illegal Immigration, and Disaster Preparedness.

. . . I think our first opportunity to work together is to get the City's Homeland Security dollars back. The Federal government recently decided San Diego isn't a high risk area. That's absurd. It's the 7th largest city in America, a third of the Pacific Fleet is home-ported in San Diego, and we have the largest number of military personnel in the nation. Jerry, let's go to Washington and get back the funds San Diego needs to protect itself from those who intend to harm us.

You only need to look to the south to see how vulnerable we are.

Last month, the Border Patrol was warned that they were targets of contract killers hired by drug smugglers and human traffickers. Shots have already been fired in Texas from the Mexican side of the border. These thugs must be dealt with forcefully. The border has become a war zone.

The recent discovery of a sophisticated tunnel system underneath our border is another reminder of how vulnerable we are to the illegal importation of chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons.

We must secure our border. I think the completion of the triple border fence is critical. We're working with the Department of Homeland Security to get them the land they need.

I say build it all the way to Texas!

Until then, the Border Patrol needs help.

I call on President Bush and Governor Schwarzenegger to secure the border and end this chaos.

Failure to act is implied consent.

OVER

You may wonder why I am so passionate about securing the border. Shooters at the border end up on our streets shooting kids. In 1995, gangs were terrorizing our neighborhoods in North County. We created the North County Regional Gang Task Force. The Sheriff's Department works with officers from Oceanside, Carlsbad, and Escondido to take back our streets.

We think the same approach will work elsewhere. Last year the Board approved a request by Supervisor Dianne Jacob to create an East County Gang Suppression Unit. Since its inception eight months ago, the team has made over 350 arrests. That has helped contribute to an impressive 33% drop in violent crimes and a 24% drop in property crimes for the command at Lemon Grove.

In 2004, the North County Gang Task Force arrested 408 gang members. 260 of them were illegal aliens. Right now the Sheriff reviews this inmate population for foreign nationals and suspected illegal immigrants. The electronic fingerprints are sent to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (also known as ICE). They determine if these people are a national security risk and can be held and dealt with by ICE. These criminals should not be here in the first place! I support The Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act. It will deny entrance to any alien who is a member of a criminal street gang and will immediately deport them. I plan to meet with Senator Dianne Feinstein while I am in Washington to urge her support for this proposal. What the federal government won't do is left to us. We have to pick up the bodies and the tab.

Our Sheriff, Bill Kolender and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis have been tremendous in their resolve to run gangs out of our County or lock them up. In this County, when people are arrested and brought to trial—they are convicted. Last year, the overall felony and misdemeanor conviction rate for the District Attorney's office was 92%! And the gang prosecution division had an 88% conviction rate. Last year we had special strategy sessions with the District Attorney, Sheriff, FBI, ICE, law enforcement agencies and the public. This year we will focus on how the business community is impacted by gang violence. We want them to join the fight against crime.

Another key partner in this fight is the Faith-based community. Four days from now, I'll be traveling to Washington. In the past I've been successful in getting grants for anti-gang measures. But, I won't stop there. Tonight, I'm pleased to announce a major step forward in the County's partnership with the Faith-based community . . .

County Supervisor Bill Horn Delivers an Irrational State of the County Speech!

Pandering to what he believes is the base fear of the members of the Republican Party in the County of San Diego, Supervisor Bill Horn vilified the Hispanic and Mexican residents of both the communities of the City and County of San Diego and residents of the Country of Mexico. His callous remarks brought disgrace to every Mexican, Hispanic, Latino and Mexican American on both sides of the Border!

In his diatribe, Horn referred to the Border as a "War Zone," obviously, he has never fought in a war! He shrilly called for the building of a third border fence all the way to Texas and described the Border as a major security threat to Homeland Security! He, with vast ignorance, pandered to the base fears of the Right wing Republican Party, in his "State Of The County Speech, this past week. In the process, he vilified the Hispanic and Mexican communities with his ignorant, callous remarks. Calling the Border, an entry way for nuclear bombs! I would suggest, to Supervisor Horn that he visit the country of Japan and see what we, as Americans did to that country with our Nuclear Bombs, before suggesting that we would open the gates to that kind of horror! Unfortunately, Mr. Horn, I was part of that WWII Holocaust that we visited upon Japan!

As publisher of *La Prensa San Diego*, I don't take kindly to your stupid remarks attempting to blemish the dignity and honor of the Mexican Citizens of Mexico and of those Mexicans that have lived and sacrificed to live with honor and dignity in America, a country which our ances-

tors helped create! Your remarks were designed to foster hate towards the Hispanic-Mexican community.

As Hispanics, we have seen this happen over and over. When, a young girl cried rape in the East County and described her assailant as a Migrant, with the tacit support of Supervisor Diana Jacobs, vigilantes went out scouring the back county, coming across four migrant workers they beat them and then ran off, leaving one of them dying. As it turned out, they had nothing to do with the girl. It is these types of comments that give comfort and support to racist.

A recent E-mail sent to *La Prensa San Diego* stated: "Beware the next step for Real American Patriots is to hunt down the enemies of OUR COUNTRY AND SHOOT TO KILL ANYTHING THAT COMES ACROSS THE BORDER - MAN, WOMAN, or CHILD!"

Mr. Horn forgets that he represents all the people of the County. It is his duty to protect the health and well being of all the races, political persuasions, and cultures. By his callous remarks, he has singled out the Hispanic community as a threat to the community at-large. Mr. Horn has failed as a leader; he has shown a complete lack of knowledge and understanding of the Border issues in general and of the important role that we as descendants of the founders and developers of America have played. The Hispanic Community must stand up to this type of racist rhetoric and demand accountability from our elected representatives!

Supervisor Horn should RESIGN IMMEDIATELY!

In his State of the County address last night in Escondido, Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Horn tackled a range of issues, from immigration to medical marijuana, and praised the county's financial situation. Sean M. Haffey / Union-Tribune

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Horn defends suing state on medicinal pot

"Failure to act is implied consent."

Horn then turned his attention from border crime to gang violence, drawing a parallel between the two.

"Shooters at the border end up on our streets shooting kids," he said.

Horn said more than half the gang members arrested by the North County gang task force in 2004 were "illegal aliens."

"These criminals should not be here in the first place," he said, adding that he supports federal legislation, now pending before Congress, that would deny entrance to the United States to members of street gangs and immediately deport them if found.

Horn then unveiled a partnership between the county and the National Network of Youth Ministries. The San Diego-based group's Web site says its mission includes exposing "every teenager to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Horn said a grant from his office's community projects fund will allow the group to work with community organizations in helping at-risk youths and fighting gangs.

Horn also defended the county's recent lawsuit against the state, seeking to overturn laws permitting possession and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

"At the same time we are fighting violent gangs that are dealing drugs in our streets, the state has ordered us to issue identification cards that let people buy and use marijuana," he said. "That violates federal law."

Horn said the county is "standing up for our constituents, and we are asking the courts to support this decision."

Just before making his comments on medical marijuana, Horn joked under his breath, "You're not going to like this next part." When he finished, there was no applause, unlike other portions of his speech, which brought an enthusiastic reaction from the audience.

In other areas, Horn:

- Vowed to work with the city of San Diego to get homeland security funding returned to the region. Last month, Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff announced the department's decision to cut San Diego from the list of 35 areas most deserving of funds

State of the County

Highlights from Supervisor Bill Horn's State of the County address last night:

- On immigration: "We must secure the border."
- On medical marijuana: "At the same time we are fighting violent gangs that are dealing drugs in our streets, the state has ordered us to issue identification cards that let people buy and use marijuana. That violates federal law."
- On traffic: "We need to build more roads."
- On the state of the county: "We are managing a county that is generally considered to be one of the best-run governments in America."

to fight terrorism.

Horn issued a challenge to San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, who was sitting in the front row of the audience: "Jerry, let's go to Washington and get back the funds San Diego needs to protect itself from those who intend to harm us!"

- Said more must be done to alleviate traffic congestion. "We need to build more roads." He said he would use his position representing the county on the San Diego Association of Governments board to push for more free-way funding.

- Took credit for helping to turn around the county's financial situation. "This county was on the brink of bankruptcy" when he was elected in 1995, Horn said.

- Gave credit to his fellow supervisors for building li-

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BILL HORN,
county supervisor

braries, supporting the arts and promoting disaster preparedness.

Comparing the county to the National League West-winning San Diego Padres, Horn said: "We identified needed talent, we brought fiscal discipline to the field of play and we practiced what we preached."

Today, he said, "we are managing a county that is generally considered to be one of the best-run governments in America."

Border issues take focus in Horn speech

By Leslie Wolf Branscomb, STAFF WRITER

Supervisor Bill Horn delivered an attention-grabbing State of the County address last night that assailed illegal immigration, border security, medical marijuana and gangs.

"The border has become a war zone," Horn declared in the speech before an audience of about 400 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

Horn decried the recent discovery of the longest cross-border tunnel ever, a half-mile passage linking Tijuana to Otay Mesa, which authorities say was used to smuggle drugs. He said it was a reminder that the area is vulnerable to the importation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

"We must secure the border," Horn said. "I think the completion of the third border fence is critical. We are working with the Department of Homeland Security to get them the land they need."

"I say build it all the way to Texas," said Horn, who is chairman of the board of supervisors. "I call on President Bush and Governor (Arnold) Schwarzenegger to secure the border and end this crisis. It's just chaos down there."

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