



For Immediate Release

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### **Lightner Lambasts Opponent Over Negative Campaigning**

Sherri Lightner, District 1 candidate for the San Diego City Council, today assailed her opponent, Phil Thalheimer, for repeatedly using untruths and smears about her in his campaign mailers.

“I had no doubt this would be a tough campaign,” Lightner said, “but I didn’t expect my opponent, who signed the city’s Campaign Code of Ethics, to repeatedly distort my statements or make up quotes purportedly made by me.”

One example is a recent Thalheimer mailer on immigration that claims to quote Lightner directly, with a photo of her, as saying at a University City High School Forum on Oct. 15: “I believe we should be a Sanctuary City.”

To show how fabricated that alleged quote is, even Thalheimer apparently didn’t believe it. On a talk-radio show about the same time, Thalheimer said of Lightner, “She does not think that we are a Sanctuary City and she says that we shouldn’t be.”

Sherri Lightner never said, “I believe we should be a Sanctuary City, as can be attested to by the many Lightner supporters who were in the audience at the Oct. 15 Forum. What she said was that she agreed with Mayor Jerry Sanders’ policy of having the San Diego police focus their attention on preventing crime and investigating criminal acts against San Diego citizens rather than spending time searching for possible illegal immigrants.

Lightner noted that she has repeatedly and publicly said, and so states on her website, that she does not and would not support any increase in San Diego

taxes. Even so, in another recent Thalheimer mailer this statement appears: “Sherri Lightner: Raise taxes to protect pensions and salaries at City Hall!”

“I am proud that I have run a positive campaign for this important office,” Lightner said. “My opponent apparently does not believe in doing that, and in apparent desperation, has sunk his campaign into the gutter, starting in the primary with his smear of candidate Marshall Merrifield. In the general election, his campaign has sent at least 15 expensive mailers to voters that include a barrage of half-truths, untruths, and distortions of my record and my statements. I expected better from someone who seeks to serve the citizens of District 1 and San Diego, but it turns out I was mistaken.”

“I promise that when I am elected, I will serve our District and our City with distinction, honor and integrity,” Lightner said. “This type of smear campaign should have no place in our City or in our politics.”

Lightner placed first in the June primary, winning over 36 percent of the vote in San Diego City Council’s District 1. She is a licensed mechanical engineer, small business owner and longtime community leader.

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