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## Press Release

For immediate release  
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**SDCERA vows to push for stronger safeguards protecting member confidentiality**  
*Protections provided by Court ruling insufficient; Board of Retirement will challenge*

SAN DIEGO — San Diego County Employees Retirement Association’s Board of Retirement unanimously voted today to challenge a San Diego County Superior Court ruling that requires SDCERA to release retired member names, employing agency, and benefit amounts, as well as written benefit summaries, to the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility. The ruling permits SDCERA to redact certain information from the summaries and prohibits CFFR from publishing the members’ last names on the internet, but it does not prevent CFFR from releasing the members’ names and personal information through other means.

“Although we are pleased that the court recognized retired public employees have some expectation of privacy, the ruling does not sufficiently safeguard individuals’ privacy and leaves them vulnerable to identity theft, home invasion and other fraud,” said Brian White, Chief Executive Officer.

The court’s order reversed a tentative ruling issued by the same judge just a few days earlier that would have protected members’ surnames and only required disclosure of last initials. “There was no reason for the court to change its tentative ruling that provided greater protection to SDCERA’s members,” said White.

Previous court rulings against other California public retirement systems compelled the disclosure of retired members’ full names. “We believe the court’s ruling is the first in recent cases to restrict the use of last names,” said White. “However, any disclosure of identifying information is potentially dangerous for any retired member—and the risks to certain members, such as those who retired from careers in law enforcement, are even greater.”

The court's ruling acknowledged that SDCERA had presented "substantial" expert evidence that criminals could use the information sought by CFFR to target retirees for financial exploitation. Nevertheless, the court concluded that because CFFR promised never to publish the list it receives from SDCERA on the internet, its new decision represented an appropriate balance of the public's right to know and the state law that requires county retirement systems to keep member records confidential.

"SDCERA is an integrity-driven organization committed to operating in an open and transparent manner. The anonymous data posted on our web site provides sufficient information for the public to review and assess the pension benefits received by members. The promise that CFFR won't publish last names on the Internet is insufficient. The ruling doesn't require them to treat the information as confidential, nor would it prevent another organization from publishing the names. The Board decided to pursue our legal options because the case for needing names is weak and the risk to retired members is great," said White.

SDCERA is an independent association established by the County employees Retirement Law of 1937. SDCERA provides retirement and associated benefits for eligible employees of the County of San Diego and other participating employers, and is responsible for collecting, depositing, investing and managing the retirement funds. The SDCERA team is responsible for the account of contributions and investment income under the direction and guidance of the Board of Retirement. SDCERA also provides a wide range of services to more than 36,000 active, deferred and retired members. For more information, please visit [www.sdcera.org](http://www.sdcera.org).