

For Immediate Release:

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San José Opens Funding Process for Safe Summer Initiative Mayor Reed and City Officials Work to Support Summer Youth Programs

SAN JOSE – In an effort to keep youth safe, active, and engaged during the summer months, San José Mayor Chuck Reed and the City Council have launched the second annual Safe Summer Initiative to provide funding to community organizations with programs geared towards youth from ages 6 to 18.

A program of the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force, the Safe Summer Initiative is designed to provide gang-impacted youth with an alternative to gang activity during non-school months. With the City Council having allocated \$500,000 in funding, non-profit organizations in San José can apply for mini-grants, which range from \$1,000 to \$30,000.

Grants are intended to help fund recreational and educational activities that occur between June 15 and September 15, 2009 with priority given to providing activities in underserved areas of the City. Funding will also be directed to enhance National Night Out events that encourage positive interaction between our youth and the San José Police Department.

“We are building on the success of last year’s Safe Summer Initiative, ensuring that our youth are given the opportunity to participate in programs that encourage outdoor activity and build their social skills,” said San José Mayor Chuck Reed. “As local non-profits are experiencing an increased financial strain due to the ongoing economic recession, this funding is a critical component towards guaranteeing their services reach our neighborhoods.”

Request for Proposal (RFP) applications will be available at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, San José City Hall, 200 East Santa Clara Street, 9th Fl., San José, CA 95113 or can be downloaded at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/grants/SSIG2009.asp> beginning at 10 a.m. on April 8. Completed applications must be submitted in person by Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Last year’s inaugural Safe Summer Initiative saw 7,424 youth participate in 435 activities. Programs included literacy development, community service projects, block parties, field trips, and baseball camps. San José experienced a 31% decline in overall gang activity during the summer of 2008 when compared to the summer of 2007.

For more information on the Safe Summer Initiative go to: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/mayor/safe.asp>