

For Immediate Release:

January 27, 2009

Contact:

**Michelle McGurk, PIO
Office of Mayor Chuck Reed
(408) 535-4840 or (408) 655-7332 cell**

**Statement from Mayor Chuck Reed
Regarding Tentative Agreement
with the Police Officers Association**

Mayor Chuck Reed released the following statement today regarding the City of San José's tentative agreement with the San Jose Police Officers Association. The City Council will vote in public session to approve the agreement following ratification by the POA. The vote is tentatively scheduled for February 24, 2009. Details of the agreement will be posted on the City Manager's Employee Relations website.

I want to thank the San Jose Police Officers Association for recognizing the fiscal challenges that the City of San José is facing and working diligently to reach agreement rather than go through a lengthy and costly arbitration process. This agreement is good for the City and the POA members who keep our residents and businesses safe.

Thank you to the POA leadership for your understanding of the budgetary constraints the City is under, for agreeing to smaller wage increases next year, and for accepting increases for this year that are the same as those that other bargaining units have also accepted during these tough times. This agreement will improve San José's already competitive position in the years ahead as we seek to recruit new officers from the small pool of individuals who are able to meet our high standards. This agreement also forges a solution that will not encourage our officers to retire early, a major concern as we look to the future.

Significantly, the POA is also to be commended for being the first bargaining unit in the City to tackle the tough issue of the unfunded liability for retiree health care benefits. I want to thank the POA for taking a significant step forward to address these costs in a way that will not over-burden the City or the employees.

Finally, I want to recognize the men and women who are members of the San Jose Police Officers Association. The residents of San José rely on you to keep our families and our neighborhoods safe, and we thank you for putting your lives on the line each day.

###