

For Immediate Release:
May 21, 2009

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

Mayor Reed Calls for Saving Fire Stations, Keeping Libraries and Community Centers Open, Preserving Park Ranger Programs

SAN JOSE, CALIF. – Mayor Chuck Reed today announced that his budget message, which will be released on June 5, will save two fire stations that were facing closure, keep libraries and community centers open, and preserve the park ranger program. He will preserve the increased funding for programs funded through the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force.

“After meeting with hundreds of residents in neighborhoods throughout the City, the message is clear: Public safety is our Number 1 priority,” Mayor Reed said. “We will not lay off police officers or firefighters. We also must look at public safety holistically. Libraries and community centers provide safe places and vital programs for our youth and seniors. Park rangers provide a vital role in Alum Rock and other city parks.”

In addition, Mayor Reed thanked the building inspectors represented by ABMEI for agreeing to a 10 percent cut in wages and hours, which preserved jobs. “I want to thank the members of ABMEI for recognizing the tough times that we’re in and for deciding that by sharing the sacrifice, they could avoid layoffs that would put friends and colleagues on the street at a time when unemployment levels are high.”

The Mayor urged other bargaining units to continue to work to find savings to help preserve jobs and services.

“We can save additional jobs and vital programs that our residents depend on if we all share the sacrifice,” he said. “City government is a service industry. Our employees are our greatest asset, and for the past seven years, we’ve cut resources to the point of being one of the most thinly staffed cities our size,” Mayor Reed said. “Our employees have stepped forward and made sacrifices to keep the city they serve and love running well. I know this commitment will continue as we work to solve this budget crisis.”

The Mayor addressed the uncertainty that lies ahead with politicians in Sacramento threatening to take local revenues to balance the state budget. “Together with the big city mayors throughout California, I’m going to fight the raiding of our local funds. California cannot balance years of budget failure on the back of local government,” Mayor Reed said.

###