



**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Michelle McGurk, Office of Mayor Chuck Reed, (408) 535-4840  
Rabia Chaudhry, Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese, (408) 299-5030

## **San José and Santa Clara County Honored as Inaugural Partners of New Global Interfaith Network**

*San José, Calif.* – In recognition of the region’s rich history of inter-religious harmony and continued efforts to promote a peaceful community, the Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions has chosen San José and Santa Clara County as inaugural members of its new Partner Cities Network.

“This honor reflects San José’s standing as a city where people of all religious backgrounds work together to build a stronger and more vibrant community,” said San José Mayor Chuck Reed. “We cherish our ethnic and religious diversity and will continue to serve as a beacon of peace and prosperity for the rest of the world.”

“It’s very significant that Santa Clara County has been recognized as a leader by the international nonviolence movement,” said Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese. “We are humbled but inspired to continue our work building peaceful communities.”

San José and Santa Clara County were selected as inaugural members based on the region’s high level of interfaith dialogue and the commitment of numerous religious groups, civic organizations and individual citizens to advance social justice. The region was also commended for the continued work of the Silicon Valley Partner City Group, a coalition of local religious groups and leaders that will be representing the region in the network.

The Partner Cities Network was created by the Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions to unite grassroots, interfaith movements in an effort to build a more just, peaceful and sustainable society. In addition to its new inaugural members, the network currently consists of four Legacy Partner Cities (Chicago; Capetown, South Africa; Barcelona, Spain; and Melbourne, Australia).

Mayor Reed will receive a proclamation of San José’s selection into the Partner Cities Network at his annual Faith Leaders Appreciation Breakfast on Thursday, October 15 at San José City Hall. The Board

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of Supervisors will receive a proclamation of Santa Clara County's selection at a reception for inter-religious leaders on November 12, 2009 at the County Governmental Center. San José and Santa Clara County will be officially introduced into the Partner Cities Network this December at the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne, Australia.

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