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# TO: HONORABLE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

.

Memorandum

SUBJECT: City Manager's Weekly Report

DATE: February 6, 2009

FROM: Debra Figone

## **INFORMATION**

Following are the key activities to be highlighted this week:

*City's Alternative Fuel Vehicle Complement Surpasses 1,000* —With the recent deployment of hybrid vehicles, electric utility carts, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) shuttle buses at the Airport, the City's fleet now includes more than 1,000 Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV's). The current count is 1,015 (39% of the motor-powered equipment in the fleet), and 67 more AFV's are planned to replace conventionally-fueled vehicles before the end of this fiscal year. The Department of General Services' efforts to be a local government leader in implementing the use of alternative fuels and related emission reduction technology has produced a fleet that includes electric powered utility vehicles, CNG vans and buses, hybrid sedans and SUV's, and the use of B-20 biodiesel fuel for our diesel powered vehicle/equipment inventory. All of these accomplishments have advanced the City's Green Vision efforts and have resulted in the reduction of  $CO_2$  gases. For more information, contact Don Beams at 975-7289.

**Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) Update** —On January 30, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission voted for a one year stay of the enforcement of certain testing and certification provisions of the CPSIA. The Commission will now have until February 10, 2010 to rule on exemptions and exclusions from the lead provisions, including the exemption requested for libraries that books and and other non-book paper-based printed materials should not be subject to the lead, phthalate, and applicable standards that are referenced in the CPSIA because they do not present any of the health or safety risks to children that the law intended to address. In its statement, the Commission makes clear that while the stay will provide additional time to develop standards and guidelines for efficient and effective enforcement of the law, there may be changes requested by Congress that will require the statute to be amended. The Library Department will keep the Mayor and City Council apprised of any developments throughout the year that impact the library. The information above is an update to the Information Memorandum received by Council on January 22. The Commission's full statement can be read at <u>http://cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09115nord.pdf</u>. For more information, contact Jane Light at 808-2150.

*Impact on Dolce' Hayes Mansion's Operations due to National Economic Conditions* —As the nationwide recession has impacted the lodging industry, the City's Dolce' Hayes Mansion has been experiencing impacts as well. Based on the most recent forecast, the Mansion's fiscal year 2008-09 revenue is projected at \$14.2 million, a decrease of approximately 11.3% or \$1.8 million

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from its budgeted amount. Therefore, to mitigate the impact on the Mansion's operations and the City's budget, Dolce' management staff, working in conjunction with City staff, have implemented a series of cost containment measures such as deferred maintenance, reductions in non-critical expenditures, eliminating nine filled positions, instituting a hiring freeze, and freezing salary increases for all salaried employees. The cost containment measures were implemented as a means to mitigate the impact on the Hayes Mansion operating budget while being mindful of potential impacts on the service level to the Mansion's guests. An additional cost containment measure realized by the Mansion was the interest cost savings achieved through Council's approval to payoff the \$5 million Comerica line of credit. Assuming a stabilization of current market conditions, staff does not anticipate an increase in the budgeted General Fund transfer for the Dolce Hayes Mansion during fiscal year 2008-09. However, staff will continue to closely monitor the Mansion's operating results and report to Council if any impacts to the City's budget are anticipated. For more information, contact Scott P. Johnson at 535-7001.

Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds for the San José-Santa Clara Clean Water Financing Authority — From January 21-29, the City managed the sale of \$21,420,000 of Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds on behalf of the San José-Santa Clara Clean Water Financing Authority. The Bond sale, referred to as the Series 2009A Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, will bear interest rates ranging from three to five percent, with an All-in True Interest Cost of 3.45%. The Bonds were issued to refund the Authority's outstanding variable rate Series 2005B Bonds, which were adversely impacted by the current market disruption and the Authority would have been required to make accelerated principal payments if the 2005B Bonds were not refunded. Typically, there are no debt service savings when converting from variable rate debt to fixed rate debt. However, due to the relatively short final maturity of the 2009A Bonds, the City was able to achieve a result that is comparable to, if not better than, what was expected of the variable rate debt when the 2005B Bonds were issued. An informational memo is being prepared for Council that will include a more detailed discussion of the bond sale's outcomes.

San José Once Again Named "Tree City USA" --- For the 27th consecutive year. San José has been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree City USA designation is a coveted national award showing a city's commitment to community forestry and recognition of the benefits that trees provide towards producing a livable city. Among the requirements for the award, cities must demonstrate on an annual basis that they have expended at least \$2 per capita towards an urban forestry program, which translates to a funding commitment from the City of more than \$1.9 million dollars. That requirement has not been in jeopardy for the City for all these decades, but due to continued budget cutbacks, especially the elimination of the City's Tree Crew, it was going to be a difficult year to achieve the expenditure requirement. However, due to the City's investment in Our City Forest (OCF), our non-profit urban forestry partner, and their legions of Tree Amigo volunteers that assist homeowners and neighborhood groups with tree planting, young tree pruning and community building educational activities, OCF's volunteer labor made the difference. The value of this volunteer labor amounted to over \$1.5 million dollars last year (over 50% of qualifying expenditures), which put San José over the top in the funding requirement and thus allowed the City be a Tree City USA for the 27th consecutive year. The City is grateful for all of the contributions of OCF and the tremendous benefit it provides to its residents. For more information, contact Ralph Mize at 277-5514.

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*Mayfair Community Center Grand Opening Hosts 800* —On January 21, the Mayfair Community Center opened to a crowd of over 800 community members. The 22,000-square foot Center is LEED Certified and incorporates a wide range of sustainable features such as a ventilating tower, operable windows in all rooms, outdoor covered walkways, energy efficient lighting and air conditioning systems, water conserving fixtures and the use of a wide range of recycled materials. Mayfair includes a multi-purpose room with full-service kitchen, class and activity rooms, computer lab, dance studio, fitness center, pool, accessible playground, water spray area (sprayground), skate park and a fully renovated park. The Mayfair Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC) and the City's Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) guided residents in program planning for children, adults and people with disabilities. The project team includes Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS), Public Works, San Jose Redevelopment Agency, Office of Cultural Arts-Public Art and the City Facilities Architectural Services Division. Mayfair Community Center is located at 2039 Kammerer Avenue. Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday through Saturday; the pool will open June-August. For more information, contact Ed Solis at 794-1060.

*New Community Centers Offer Resources to Downtown, East San Jose Residents* —With the opening of the Mayfair and Roosevelt Community Centers, local employers and employees have additional resources in an area where these amenities are rarely available. Both Centers offer state-of-the-art multimedia meeting space and computer training labs as well as fitness centers with all-new equipment. Their convenient locations (Roosevelt is less than a mile from City Hall and Mayfair only an eight minute drive from downtown), fitness center drop-in hours and well-below market rates encourage employees and residents alike to Get Active and Shop San Jose. The Roosevelt Community Center, at 901 E. Santa Clara, is open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information please call 794-7555.

**PRNS Lauded for Airport Parkway Under-Crossing Project** — The California Parks and Recreation Society has chosen the Airport Parkway Under-Crossing Project to receive its Award of Excellence. The project, a result of five years of coordination and partnership with Santa Clara Valley Water District, was recognized for its outstanding facility design within the environmentally sensitive and constrained area. The under-crossing allows trail users to pass beneath one of the city's busiest intersections and access nine miles of uninterrupted trail along the Guadalupe River. For more information, contact Yves Zsutty at 793-5561.

*CourseCo Inc. Nominated for First Tee Founders Award* —CourseCo Inc., the golf management company with oversight of Los Lagos and Rancho del Pueblo golf courses, has been nominated for the First Tee Founders Award in the category of Golf Course and Management Development. CourseCo Inc. was selected for positively impacting the lives of young people and helping to develop numerous chapters of First Tee throughout the region. CourseCo Inc. has sustained the City's commitment to youth by working to instill character development and life-enhancing values to young people through the game of golf. For more information, contact Cindy Rebhan at 277-5739.

*Community Meets On Development of US Interstate Bicycle Route System* —On February 3, City staff hosted a community meeting to engage the public in the development of the U.S. Bicycle Route System. The system is envisioned to offer continuous cross-country routes that would serve bicyclists much like the Interstate Highway System serves drivers. Trail and bikeway staff conducted a tour for representatives of Caltrans and the Adventure Cycling Association HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL Subject: City Manager's Weekly Report Date: February 6, 2009 Page 4 of 7

(ACA) to showcase San Jose's network of bikeways and trails. Staff will continue to collaborate with both ACA and Caltrans to ensure that San José is a part of the proposed Coastal Route 95. Inclusion in the US Bicycle Route System is anticipated to increase bicycle tourism, strengthen the City's reputation as a bicycle friendly community and aide in securing grant funds to complete the Green Vision's 100-mile trail network goal. For more information, call 793-5561.

San Jose Teams Take the Top Slots in Mayor's Basketball Tournament —On January 31, San José teams took three of the top five slots in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Basketball Tournament for 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys at the Berryessa Youth Center. The Union Tigers won the championship, the Willow Glen Rams secured second place and Bret Harte took the number four spot. Only the top 16 teams from Santa Clara County are invited to participate in this highly competitive event. The tournament is recognized by schools, coaches, players and parents as the complete tournament experience for middle school basketball teams. Teams from Bret Harte, Willow Glen, Palma, and Union are competing for the championship.

San Jose Earthquakes Strike Partnership Deal — The San Jose Earthquakes have announced a three-year sponsorship deal with Amway Global, reportedly worth \$2-\$3 million, which will allow their logo to appear across the front of the team's jerseys and additional rights to other promotions tied to the team. Sponsorship on the front of pro-team uniforms is a rarity in the United States and is currently only allowed in Major League Soccer. In Europe, soccer clubs generate millions of dollars annually from jersey sponsorship deals. This deal will not only positively impact the finances of the Earthquakes, but presents a significant partership amidst the current economic times. Additionally, it has been reported that this partnership was struck due to the marketing power that the Earthquakes have with local, domestic and international audiences.

*Volaris Airlines Exploring Possible Service To San José* —Representatives of Volaris Airlines, a low-cost carrier based in Mexico, visited San Jose last week to gather information about the potential for their airline to launch new routes between Mexico and the United States. The airline is entering into a partnership with Southwest Airlines (the largest carrier at SJC), and it plans to begin international air service to at least one U.S. Airport this summer. The Airport worked closely with San José business, community, and Hispanic leaders to clearly demonstrate to Volaris the strong local support for new service between SJC and Mexico that will help to make a successful and sustainable launch. The airline indicated that it likely would make a decision within a month. For more information, contact Ed Nelson at 501-7603.

*Silver Leaf Community Meeting* —On February 3, Housing Department staff attended the Silver Leaf Coalition (SLC) meeting to hear community input about Eden Housing's proposed affordable housing development located on Ford Road west of Monterey Road. This meeting was initiated by the Housing Department in order to obtain community input about the proposed affordable housing on the site prior to beginning the entitlement process or submission of a funding request to the City. The SLC board attended, as well as the development team from Eden Housing. Approximately 25 members of the public were in attendance who were given the opportunity to address concerns such as the need for continued communication between Eden and the neighborhood throughout the development process; development's impact on neighborhood crime; traffic and parking, adjoining property owner's privacy; emergency responder access; and school district impacts. The Housing Department plans to return to the SLC during the entitlement process and provide feedback on the issues discussed. For more information, contact Leslye Krutko at 535-3851.

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**Rainbow West and Miller Neighborhood Associations Participate in Mini Green Fair** —On January 28, Environmental Services and a representative from Horizon Energy Systems, a local solar installer, organized a mini-green fair, to over 50 members of the Rainbow West and Miller Neighborhood Associations at Lynbrook High School. Attendees were provided information on the City's Green Vision, energy and water conservation programs, and green building. Horizon Energy Systems offered a neighborhood discount for solar installations at the fair where approximately 10 households signed up for an evaluation. For more information, contact Karen McDonough at 975-2592.

*Community Provides Input on Reducing Plastic and Paper Shopping Bags* —On January 28-29, over 120 members from business, environmental, faith, community based organizations and interested public attended public meetings regarding the proposed fee to reduce the use of plastic and paper shopping bags. Participants discussed concerns related to the fee amount, administration and enforcement of the fee, use of the funds, logistic for retailers and need for public outreach. Alternative ideas included instituting a ban on all single-use carry-out shopping bags, implementing a tiered-fee system with only larger stores needing to comply, and increasing public education and incentive programs for shoppers who bring their own bags. Gathering public input and stakeholder involvement will continue to be a key component in developing plans to reduce disposable shopping bags. For more information, contact Melody Tovar at 277-3892.

Lighting Retrofit at St. James Community Center to Save \$4,000 Annually — Through the installation of new energy conserving lighting fixtures at the St. James Community Center, the City anticipates a savings of approximately \$4,000 a year in operating costs. Through the receipt of a rebate from Pacific Gas & Electric, the City anticipates it will recover retrofit costs within two years. This project includes additional energy and water audits and is part of the City's Public Facilities Energy & Green Building Improvement Project, a program funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This program identifies opportunities to incorporate green building design at a number of City facilities that serve San José residents located in low and moderate income areas. Environmental Services and General Services staff are continuing efforts to not only reduce operating costs, but improve occupancy comfort in these and other municipal facilities. For more information contact Jessie Denver at 975-2588.

*Zero Waste Planner in Environmental Services Earns National Planning Award* —Emy Mendoza, Zero Waste Planner in Environmental Services, and a recent San Jose State University (SJSU) graduate student, has received the 2009 National Planning Leadership Award for a Student Planner from the American Planning Association. The award recognizes Ms. Mendoza's leadership role serving the community, promoting the planning profession, and maintaining academic excellence. While a graduate student, Ms. Mendoza served on the steering committee for CommUniverCity San José, a partnership between the City, SJSU, and the five Wounds/BrookWood Terrace communities. This partnership is dedicated to planning and implementing programs for improving the neighborhood's quality of life. Only one graduate student is recognized annually nationwide. A story on Ms. Mendoza teaching a Fall 2008 San Jose State Urban Planning studio class, which supported the City's Commercial Solid Waste System Redesign efforts, is in the February 2009 issue of *Northern News*, the Northern California APA newsletter, <u>http://www.norcalapa.org/assets/chapter/newsletter/Feb09.pdf</u>. For more information, contact Jo Zientek at 535-8557. HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL Subject: City Manager's Weekly Report Date: February 6, 2009 Page 6 of 7

*SJPD Sobriety Checkpoint* -On Friday, January 30, the Traffic Enforcement Unit conducted a Sobriety checkpoint at Saratoga Avenue and Kiely Boulevard. The checkpoint resulted in over 900 vehicles that were screened and the citation and arrests of several unlicensed and under the influence drivers. Staffing and resources related to the checkpoint were funded through a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

San José Police Department Invited to an Equity Leadership Summit — On February 25-26, San José Police Chief Rob Davis will be participating in the "Police Summit for Leadership in Equity" conference, sponsored by the Russel Sage Foundation and the Consortium for Police Leadership in Equity. The Consortium is a partnership between several of the nation's leading research institutions in an effort to improve police leadership around issues of equity, such as gender equity in officer retention, the efficacy of diversity training in our police academy, and racial bias in use of force. Participation was extended to Police Departments who have experience and models related to their research topics.

## 2009 Upcoming Meetings & Events

*Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program Group Session* –Qualifying individuals interested in joining the program, or those who would like more information, please call the Clean Slate office at 251-7757.

*Envision 2040 Community Workshop* – Saturday, February 7, 9 a.m. to Noon in the Pavilion at the Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum Rock Avenue. For more information, visit http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/gp\_update/

*Lunar New Year Celebration Event Sponsored by Councilmember Kansen Chu* – Monday, February 9, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in Wing 118-120. Event will feature cultural performances, including martial arts, singing, and dancing. Contact District 4 Council Office at 535-4904.

Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: District 1 & San Jose Afterschool (SJAS); Monday, February 9, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Moreland-West Community Center, Rms 1 & 2, 1850 Fallbrook Ave, San Jose, 95130. For more information please call (408) 871-3820

*Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: District 8 & Regional Parks Advocates;* Wednesday, February 11, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Millbrook Community Center, Room C 3200 Millbrook Drive, San José, CA 95148. For more information please call (408) 270-1602.

*Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: District 6 & Neighborhood Parks Advocates;* Tuesday, February 17, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Willows Senior Center, 2175 Lincoln Ave., San José, CA 95125. For more information please call (408) 448-6400.

### Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: District 5 & Sports;

Wednesday, February 18, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Alum Rock Community Center Community Room 137 N. White Road, San José, CA 95127. For more information please call (408) 251-5757

*Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: District 4 & Therapeutics;* Thursday, February 19, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Berryessa Community Center, Rm 3, 3050 Berryessa Road, San José, CA 95132. For more information please call (408) 251-6392

*Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: District 9 & Aquatics;* Monday, February 23, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Camden Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room 3369 Union Avenue, San José, CA 95124. For more information please call (408) 559-8553.

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# Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: Senior Centers Regions 1 & 2

Monday, February 23, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Hank Lopez Community Center 1694 Adrian Way, San José, CA 95122. For more information please call (408) 926-3895.

#### Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: District 10

Tuesday, February 24, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., The Almaden Winery, 5730 Chambertin Drive, San José, CA 95118. For more information please call (408) 268-1133.

## Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: Districts 2 & 7

Wednesday, February 25, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., George Shirakawa Community Center 2072 Lucretia Avenue, CA San José 95122. For more information please call 408-277-3317.

## Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: District 3

Thursday, February 26, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Northside Community Center, Auditorium A 488 N. 6th Street, San José 95112. For more information please call (408) 794-7500.

## Pricing & Revenue Plan Community Meeting: Senior Centers Regions 3 & 4

Thursday, February 26, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Willows Senior Center, 2175 Lincoln Ave, San José, CA 95125. For more information please call (408) 448-6400.

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Commission 'Beat the Statistics' Youth Conference – Friday, February 27, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. City Hall Rotunda, 200 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95113. For more information, contact Betty Montova at 793-5559 or bettymontoya@sanjoseca.gov

# City of San Jose, Boards and Commissions Focus Groups

- Monday, February 9, 7:00 9:00 p.m. Roberto Cruz/Alum Rock Branch Library- Community Room. 3090 Alum Rock Avenue.
- Thursday, February 19, 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. West Valley Branch Library- Community Room. 1243 San Tomas Aquino Road.
- Wednesday, February 25, 6:00 8:00 p.m. San Jose City Hall- Wing Room 120. 200 E. Santa Clara Street.

Attendance is limited to two representatives from each Board or Commission. For more information, contact Dottie Barney at 535-1259 or dottie.barney@sanjoseca.gov.

"Neighbors in the Chambers" Training — Training will consist of three sessions on the following subjects:

- Saturday, February 21: "From Idea to Action," led by the Office of the City Clerk, focusing on how an item arrives at Council;
- Saturday, March 21: "City Council Meeting 101," is a walkthrough of a council meeting led by the Neighborhood Development Center and Strong Neighborhoods Initiative; and
- Saturday, April 18: "The Effective Advocate," led by neighborhood leaders focuses on how to be M an effective advocate and engage the community.

All sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the Council Chambers. Space is limited so RSVPearly to the Neighborhood Development Center, 723-4114 or ndc@sanjoseca.gov.

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City Manager