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City Manager's Office

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Debra Figone

SUBJECT: City Manager's Weekly Report

DATE: December 17, 2010

INFORMATION

Due to the upcoming furlough, this is the final edition of the Manager's Weekly for 2010. The Weekly will resume on January 7, 2011

Community Centers to Close during City Furlough—Community centers throughout the City will be closed December 23, 2010 through January 2, 2011. Senior Nutrition Programs will operate limited hours on December 27, 28 & 29. Please call your local community center to inquire about general operating hours during the remainder of the holiday season. Community center contact information is available at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns or in the Citywide Activity Guide. For more information, contact Dan Wax, Division Manager, at 535-3576.

Park Holiday Hours—Neighborhood Park outdoor features will be accessible to the public from sunrise to one hour after sunset every day. Neighborhood park restrooms will be closed for the holidays beginning Thursday, December 23, through Saturday, December 25; they will reopen on Sunday, December 26. The restrooms will also be closed for New Year's beginning Thursday, December 30 through Saturday, January 1; they will reopen on Sunday, January 2. After hours and weekend emergency staff may be contacted through the Fire Department Communications.

Regional Parks will be open as follows

- Kelley, Alum Rock and Guadalupe River Regional Parks will be open every day including Christmas and New Years from 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (1/2 hour after sunset).
- Lake Cunningham and Almaden Lake will be open 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. everyday except December 25th and January 1st.
- Overfelt Gardens and Prusch Farm will be opened 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. except December 23, December 24, December 30 and December 31. In addition, Alum Rock, Overfelt, Prusch and Almaden Lake will continue Monday closures on December 20 and 27.

For more information, contact Steve Hammack, Deputy Director, at 793-5579.

Recent Incidents at Medical Marijuana Clubs—During this week, three medical marijuana dispensaries in San Jose were burglarized. In addition to the series of burglaries, two robberies also occurred; one at a residential medical marijuana grow house and another at a medical marijuana dispensary.

On Wednesday, December 14, at approximately 11:30 p.m., *Elemental Wellness Dispensary* located in the 700 block of Charcot Ave. was burglarized. Two additional burglaries occurred shortly after midnight on Thursday, December 15 at the *Sensi Herbal Care Dispensary* in the 20th block of Post Street and at the *Holistic Pain Management Institute (HPMI) Dispensary*, located in the 1800 block of S. 10th Street.

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Additionally, on December 15 at approximately 3:15 p.m., a home invasion robbery occurred in the 1500 block of E. San Fernando Street. The victim was a patient and grew medical marijuana in his house for medical marijuana dispensaries. Later that day at approximately 8:55 p.m., an armed robbery occurred at the *San Jose Rehab Clinic Dispensary* located in the 600 block of Saratoga Ave. For more information on these incidents, please contact Deputy Chief Dave Hober, Bureau of Investigations, at 408-277-4244 or at david.hober@sanjoseca.gov.

Earth Day 2011—The City's Environmental Services Department, in cooperation with the City Manager's Office, is planning an Earth Day 2011 event in April. This event will leverage Department of Energy (DOE) grant funding to highlight solar energy and other environmental activities as well as the City's Green Vision. The event will also kick off an extensive community outreach effort related to energy efficiency and renewable energy activities.

Ideas and input from Council members are welcome to make this event and the ongoing community engagement efforts successful. Specifically, we are looking to identify existing or planned events in Council districts that can be leveraged as part of Earth Day Activities. Information on specific groups, businesses, or nonprofits that the City could engage would also be helpful. For more information, contact Mary Tucker, Environmental Program Manager, at 975-2581.

Call Center Test Case—Beginning December 20 through January 31, 2011, the City's Customer Contact Center will conduct two pilots dedicating a limited number of customer service representatives to focus solely on general calls and City walk-ins. Statistics gathered during these test periods will enable staff to assess service impacts in preparation for possible future staff reductions. During the pilot period, increased wait times to the public will be closely monitored. For more information, contact Desiree Jafferries, Customer Contact Center Manager at 535-3559.

Airport Passenger Traffic Increases Again in November, Though Flights Decline—For the third consecutive month, passenger activity at SJC has increased compared to the same period a year ago as November 2010 traffic gained 4.0% compared to November 2009. However, the total number of commercial passenger operations at SJC fell by 6.6% compared to a year ago, which means that flights continue to fly with even fuller loads. With average load factors for many airlines now at approximately 95%, the Airport hopes this will be a signal to carriers that they can place additional capacity at SJC to meet growing Silicon Valley market demand. For more information, contact Bill Sherry, Aviation Director, at 392-3611.

Results of Temporary Business Tax Suspension Program—On May 11, 2010 the City Council approved a Temporary Business Tax Suspension Program. The program was designed to be an economic development tool for business attraction and retention during the financial downturn. To qualify for the program, participants were required to submit an application request provided by the Finance Department. The application period was from June 18, 2010 thru September 30, 2010. Applicants were required to provide a copy of a lease agreement for space leased in San José executed between January 1, 2010 and September 30, 2010. Qualifying businesses would be entitled to a business tax suspension up to a maximum of \$636. Extensive outreach efforts were employed to raise awareness of the program. The outreach efforts included communication with existing and prospective business owners by City staff, as well as publicizing the program which included articles published by the San José Business Journal, the Mayor's monthly Newsletter, the

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Downtown Association's Newsletter, and BusinessOwnersSpace.com website. The program ended on September 30, 2010 with 11 approved applications totaling \$2,604 in business tax suspension. For more information, contact Wendy Sollazzi, Finance Revenue Management Division Manager, at 535-7005.

Payroll Goes 100% Paperless—On December 3, the City's Payroll Unit achieved its goal of 100% electronically distributed payroll. This is a significant achievement that resulted in one of the first large cities in the Country to go completely payroll paperless. Over the last 18 months the Finance Department has been working to streamline operations while at the same time supporting the Mayor and Council's Green Vision. In coordination with the IT Department, modifications were made to allow for viewing and printing of electronic paystubs from eWay. This past summer the City's Finance Department also piloted the next step in electronic payroll payment processing by implementing the Wells Fargo PayCard program for the Work2Future summer youth program, which included approximately 800 youths. This streamlined process results in budgetary savings for staffing costs and non-personal costs for supplies and computer equipment in the Finance Department which was programmed into the Finance Department's 2010-11 budget. For more information, contact Dan Kadomoto, Finance Program Manager, at 535-7071

Fats, Oil and Grease Drop-off Event—On November 27, the City's Environmental Services Department held a drop-off event at the San Jose Environmental Innovation Center, located on Las Plumas Ave., to promote proper disposal of residential fats, oil and grease. Seventeen residents dropped off a total of 70 gallons of used cooking oil for recycling at this first-ever pilot event. Proper disposal of residential fats, oil and grease protects the sanitary sewer system by preventing backups and overflows, and thus keeps these pollutants from washing into our creeks and the San Francisco Bay. Staff also provided residents with information about other environmental issues that affect the wastewater and stormwater systems. For more information, contact Sharon Newton, Environmental Services Program Manager, at 793-5351.

Homeless Memorial—On December 15, National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day was observed in a ceremony at the Boccardo Regional Reception Center to honor the 51 homeless individuals who died on the street, in emergency shelter or in transitional shelter in 2010. Councilmember Madison Nguyen and Assemblymember Paul Fong (22nd-District) were two of the six persons who recited the names of the departed. On a positive note, the number of homeless deaths in Santa Clara County is down by 24% compared to 2009 and down 48% compared to 2008. For more information, contact Leslye Corsiglia, Director of Housing, at 535-3851.

Happy Hollow Foundation 'Un Gala' Lands Major Sponsors—Happy Hollow Foundation has secured several lead sponsors for the inaugural Hoot & Howl "Un-Gala" event on March 26, 2011. Cisco Systems will be the presenting sponsor; silver sponsors include San Jose Water Company and West Valley Construction. Bronze sponsors are Hudson Companies and Mount & Stoelker, LLP. To date, \$40,000 has been pledged to continue critical support by the Happy Hollow Foundation for the park & zoo. The Hoot & Howl is Happy Hollow Foundation's Signature Fundraising Event of the year, benefiting Happy Hollow Park & Zoo (HHPZ). For more information on the event please visit www.hhpz.org and click on the Hoot & Howl slide. For more information and to learn about additional sponsorship opportunities, please contact Heather Lerner, Foundation Executive Director at 277-3498.

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City Reduces Mercury Pollution Through Mercury Thermometer Exchange Events—During the months of October through December, the City's Environmental Services Department hosted four Mercury Thermometer Exchange events. Altogether, 176 residents turned in 250 old-fashioned glass mercury thermometers and other mercury-containing thermostats and switches. In exchange, residents received a free digital thermometer and pollution prevention tips for cleaning their homes. The events were held at locations throughout Santa Clara County. Reducing mercury pollution is a requirement of our region's stormwater permit. For more information, contact Sharon Newton, Environmental Services Program Manager at 793-5351.

SJC Rental Car Garage Receives Award—The Rental Car Garage, at the San Jose International Airport, featuring the artwork Hands by artist Christian Moeller, has won an award from the Chain Link Fence Manufacturers Institute (CLFMI) for the innovative use of chain link products on a commercial or industrial project. The Award was determined during CLFMI's 2010 Annual Meeting in San Diego earlier this month. For more information, contact Barbara Goldstein, Public Art Program Director, Office of Cultural Affairs, at 793-4337.

Educational and Vocational Opportunities—The Center for Employment Training & Careers (CETC) has several educational and vocational opportunities available to youth ages 17-21. Participants can complete a GED program while receiving job training. CETC also provides college enrollment guidance and employment assistance. For more information, call 213-0961 ext. 20 or 27.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Two Robert Dawson Photographic Exhibits on Wastewater—Now through February 1, 2011, *The Conscience of the City: Treating Wastewater in Silicon Valley* in City Hall windows along 4th Street between Santa Clara and San Fernando streets. For more information, contact Barbara Goldstein, Public Art Director, at 793-4337.

Christmas in the Park—Friday, November 26, 2010 through Saturday, January 1, 2011, 5:30pm - 12:00am, Plaza de Cesar Chavez. For more information, contact Ed Bautista, Events Manager at 794-6201.

Kwanzaa Celebration—Saturday, December 18, from 10:00am – 6:00pm, parade at 1:00pm, Zanker House, History Park. For more information please contact Sandra Dailey at 398-8044 or aahhsanjose@aol.com.

3rd Annual Crime and Gang Prevention Summit—Saturday, January 22, 2011
8:00 am – 12:00 pm Seven Trees Community Center, 3590 Cas Drive, San José, CA 95111


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