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Contact:

David Vossbrink, (408) 277-3515
Communications Director, Mayor's Office

Mayor Gonzales Names Economic Leadership Team
Business leaders to advise on making San José more business-friendly

San José --- Prominent Silicon Valley business leaders have been tapped by Mayor Ron Gonzales to join his Economic Leadership Team and provide advice regarding the city's economic development strategies and its plans to strengthen the local business environment [roster attached].

Gonzales introduced the idea of his Economic Leadership Team in September as part of his recommendations for economic recovery in San Jose. The team's role is to provide ideas and feedback on the city's efforts to improve the business climate, create jobs, and remain an economically competitive community.

"We are fortunate to have so much business talent and creativity in our region with leaders who are generously sharing with their insights and experience with us," said the mayor.

"By working together, we can ensure that our city will be where quality companies continue to come, stay, and grow, help get our families back to work, and make San José an easier place to do business."

Team members held their first meeting last week to review economic strategies for San Jose. The team will serve as a continuing source of expertise, feedback and guidance to Mayor Gonzales and the city, and he expects it to meet as a group at least twice a year.

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“Businesses have told us what they need from us to help them be more successful in San José, including building more affordable homes for their employees, addressing traffic and education issues, making our city more responsive for business decisions, and continuing to make our community an exciting center of innovation and creativity.

“Over the coming months I look forward to working with our businesses to identify and act on solutions to address their needs,” said the mayor

Gonzales convened a weeklong series of special city council study sessions in August to hear from business and community leaders about how to achieve economic recovery and create jobs in San Jose. Based on feedback from the sessions, the mayor made dozens of recommendations in September to provide incentives, remove barriers, and improve city systems to support job creation and retention in San Jose.

Included among his proposals is expanding permit fee exemptions for business tenant improvements to encompass downtown and the North San Jose industrial area; reducing and simplifying sign regulations to help businesses; and refocusing job training programs to address the employment needs and opportunities of driving industries that are the foundation of the Silicon Valley economy.

Other recommendations include establishing a one-start center for anyone needing to do business with San José; a moratorium on new city regulations and eliminating existing regulations that no longer serve a useful purpose; and reengineering city programs to ensure consistency, customer service, and efficiency in dealing with businesses.

The San Jose Office of Economic Development also has prepared a comprehensive economic strategy based on extensive research with the Silicon Valley business community and analysis of San Jose's competitive advantages. The draft economic strategy was released today, and it will serve as a framework for the mayor's Economic Leadership Team and for the city's overall efforts to support job growth and retention in San Jose.

The economic strategy can be found on the city's website at www.sjeconomy.com

[Roster of the Mayor's Economic Leadership Team is attached on next page]

Mayor's Economic Leadership Team

Glenda Anderson	CEO	Pathwork Informatics
Bruce Chizen	President & CEO	Adobe
Alfred Chuang	Founder, Chairman & CEO	BEA Systems
Joe Crowley	Interim President	San Jose State University
Curtis Davis	VP & General Manager	Analog Devices
Mark Golan	Sr. VP, Worldwide RE & Workplace Solutions	Cisco
Francis Lee	President & CEO	Synaptics
Robert Morris	VP, Personal Systems & Storage	IBM Almaden Research Center
Paul Robichaux	CEO	New Era Software
Willem Roelandts	President, CEO & Chairman	Xilinx
Inder Singh	President & CEO	LinuxWorks
Curtis Wozniak	Chairman & CEO	Electrogas
Brad Zaro	President & CEO	Clinimetrics
Min Zhu	President & CTO	WebEx

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