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Mayor Expresses Disappointment in Sharks Fans' Disrespect to Canada Anthem

Statement by San José Mayor Ron Gonzales

One of the great benefits of sports is when a community comes together in a common purpose and cheers their team in a spirit of good sportsmanship. I'm delighted that the San José Sharks have given the people of our community another reason to cheer this year with a successful season and their pursuit of the Stanley Cup in the NHL playoffs.

This is why I must express my deep disappointment in the actions of some fans at yesterday's game in San José between the Sharks and the Edmonton Oilers when they booed during the playing of Canada's National Anthem.

This showed a lack of respect to our Canadian neighbors, to the players of both teams, and to our own residents. It certainly does not reflect the values of the people of San José, who represent the diversity of many cultures and heritages that have strengthened and enriched our entire community, and have made our city a model for others.

I sincerely hope that this occurrence of bad behavior by a small number of fans is an aberration caused by misplaced enthusiasm and an ignorance of the expected courtesy that we should extend to all teams and players in every stadium, ballpark and arena.

I encourage and expect that all San José fans to stay positive, cheer good play and good sportsmanship, and show their respect for both our home team and the competition. Regardless of the outcome of the playoffs, we should all be able to walk away with pride and not be embarrassed by the actions of a few.

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