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Mayor's Office

San José Honored with *Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award*

San José ---- Mayor Ron Gonzales, on behalf of the City of San José, accepted the prestigious *Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award* at the Celebration of Vision and Community Spirit Awards Dinner held tonight in Washington, DC. The award recognizes San José's innovative affordable housing programs.

"We've made building affordable housing for our residents of all income levels a top priority," said Mayor Gonzales.

The award is given by Washington, D.C.-based Partners for Livable Communities at its "Celebration of Vision and Community Spirit" black tie dinner awards program on Thursday evening, March 9th at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. The awards will be presented by *Governing Magazine* Editor and Publisher Peter Harkness.

San José housing leaders traveled to the nations capital to be a part of the awards ceremony including Barry Del Buono, President and CEO of EHC Lifebuilders, Chris Block, Executive Director of Charities Housing Development, David Neale, President of CORE Development and Leslye Krutko, San José Housing Department Director.

"The people of San Jose can be proud that we are the #1 builder of affordable housing in California. On behalf of San José, the hard work of our staff, private and non-profit partnerships, thank you for this honor."

Since 1999, San José, under Mayor Gonzales leadership, has adopted one of the most aggressive housing programs of any big city in America. San José more than doubled its rate of production, increased funding to a record \$300 million leveraging \$1.2 billion of private investment. By the end of this year, San José will meet and surpass its goal to have new 10,000 affordable homes built or under construction. San José has also helped over 500 teachers in our 19 school districts purchase

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their first homes through the Teacher Homebuyer program that provide down payment assistance of up to \$65,000.”

The Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award acknowledges the civic capacity building, commitment, vision and entrepreneurial spirit of an individual, group, or city. Partners for Livable Communities will honor a total of 9 individuals and communities that have accomplished change and put either new assets or renewed assets to work as part of their respective community’s future. For thirty years, Partners for Livable Communities has celebrated the leadership of people, institutions, and partnerships that have discovered unique assets that communities can build upon to become a more livable place.

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