

For Immediate Release:
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Dublin Delegation in San José for “Irish Week”

Annual celebration of San Jose/Dublin Sister City relationship led by visit by Lord Mayor of Dublin to Silicon Valley



San Jose, CA ---- The annual “Spirit of Ireland” Week has come to San José this week with today’s arrival of a delegation from Dublin to help celebrate the San José-Dublin Sister City Program.

“We will give a warm San José welcome to our Irish visitors as we celebrate Irish Week,” said San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales. “San José and Dublin enjoy extensive cultural and business ties, and I’m looking forward to exploring new opportunities based on the goodwill that has grown from our long-standing relationship.”



The mayor and members of a San José delegation met last summer with business executives and high-ranking officials of the Dublin and Irish governments including Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

“We have developed a excellent relationship between the people of Dublin and San José over the past two decades,” said Councilmember Linda LeZotte. “Irish Week celebrates the heritage we hold in common and the future we will build together.” LeZotte is a member of the San José-Dublin Sister City Committee.

The delegation arriving from Ireland tomorrow includes Dublin Lord Mayor Dermot Lacey and his wife Jill Lacey; city councillor Niamh Cosgrove; Alderman Maurice Ahern and his wife Moira Ahern; Dublin City Manager John Fitzgerald; Kevin Dowling, Dublin City Manager’s Office; Professor Eoin O’Neill, Trinity College; Phil Flynn, Chief Executive, Digital Media Lab; and Gina Quinn, Chief Executive Officer, Dublin Chamber of Commerce.



This year the annual “Spirit of Ireland” award will be presented to Mary Harney, Deputy Prime Minister (An Tanaiste). The award is presented to individuals whose accomplishments exemplify the positive and productive relationship between San José and Ireland.

“We are delighted to recognize Mary Harney as An Tanaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for Ireland for her hard work to strengthen the successful ties between Ireland and Silicon Valley,” said LeZotte. “We greatly appreciate her interest in our community and her commitment to continued partnership.”

Previous winners of the Spirit of Ireland award include former San José mayors Tom McEnery and Susan Hammer, Gordon Moore of Intel, John Lewis of Amdahl; Wim Roelandts of Xilinx, Inc., Nobel Peace Prize recipient John Hume, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, and President Bill Clinton.

Activities planned for the Dublin delegation during Irish Week include briefings on economic development and Silicon Valley business opportunities; tours of San José and Silicon Valley; and a San José Sharks game.

Other public events include:

8:00 a.m., Thursday, March 6

San José-Dublin Sister City Committee Welcome Breakfast
San José Capital Athletic Club, 196 North Third Street
Reservations: Phone 408-615-7309

10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 6:

Sister City Flag Raising Ceremony

In front of San José City Hall, 801 North First Street

Mayor Ron Gonzales and Lord Mayor Dermot Lacey will raise the flags of the United States and Ireland to mark San José's Irish Week Festivities. National anthems will be sung by St. John Vianney Choir.

Friday, March 7

15th Annual "Spirit of Ireland Award" Dinner

2003 Spirit of Ireland Recipient – Mary Harney, Deputy Prime Minister (An Tanaiste)

San José Fairmont Hotel

For information or reservations, call 408-283-4250 or 578-6926

For general information about the San José-Dublin Sister City Program or Irish Week, call (408) 578-6926.

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