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Mayor Gonzales to Participate in “Mayors Homeland Security” Summit in Los Angeles

San José --- San José Mayor Ron Gonzales will join Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn as a featured presenter at the Mayors Homeland Security Summit in Los Angeles this week to discuss the critical role that cities play in the nation’s security efforts.

Gonzales will speak about the San José experience in emergency preparedness before the September 11 attacks and the lessons learned since then.

Mayor Hahn organized the security summit to provide a forum for local, state and federal officials to discuss critical issues related to homeland security planning, operations and funding at the local level. The summit will be held in Los Angeles on Wednesday, September 17, and Thursday, September 18.

Joining Mayors Gonzales and Hahn for the Wednesday morning panel on “Urban Areas Security – A California Approach to a Securer Horizon” will be Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown, Glendale Mayor Frank Quintero, and Los Angeles Chief of Police William Bratton.

“Cities are the first to respond with police officers, firefighters, and paramedics in any emergency, whether earthquakes, flood, or terrorism,” said Gonzales. “After September 11 and witnessing the experience of New York City, we were profoundly reminded of this huge responsibility that cities have for national security at the local level.”

Gonzales noted that since September 11, San José has spent \$25 million for additional local security activities mandated by the federal government that has not been reimbursed.

“Unfortunately, local resources are stretched about as far as they can go. Cities need federal and state resources dedicated to continue efforts by cities to protect homeland security for our residents where they live and work.

“We need adequate recognition and funding by state and federal authorities for our essential role as first responders.”

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