

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fremont Residents Join Forces to Celebrate the City's 50th Anniversary Public Invited to Participate in Planning on January 31st

Fremont, California, January 28, 2005—When the City of Fremont marks its 50th anniversary next year, the celebration will be the culmination of a grassroots effort that is beginning now. More than 100 interested residents gathered at a public meeting on January 6th to brainstorm for the occasion, and from that meeting, a steering committee and an organizational structure has emerged, along with an array of potential projects and activities. The second public meeting takes place January 31st from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Fremont Main Library, during which the anniversary logo will be unveiled and the opportunities for volunteer involvement will be developed further. To aid in the effort and encourage private sector contributions to the celebration, the City of Fremont will announce the city council's decision to provide \$10,000 in seed funding.

“The current budget constraints of city government prevent us from underwriting the entire celebration,” observes Fremont mayor Bob Wasserman, “but the council was eager

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to provide seed money as a foundation upon which the community can build the funding structure.”

“Fremont's 50th anniversary is an historic opportunity to celebrate our past while uniting our diverse community and historic districts around a shared vision for the future,” adds vice mayor Dominic Dutra, who organized the first meeting. He and councilmember Steve Cho have been meeting with the steering committee this month. Mr. Dutra will now assume an advisory role to the executive steering committee, under the leadership of chair Irene Koehler and vice chair Sue Chan.

“We are very pleased and honored that such a talented cross-section of Fremont residents has stepped forward to guide the planning,” remarks Ms. Koehler. “The financial support from the City Council gives us a solid start on fund raising.”

The public is encouraged to attend the meeting on Monday, January 31st from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library in Fukaya Room B. With an anticipated attendance of as many as 75-100 people, organizers prefer that attendees RSVP so that plans can be made accordingly. Responses may be e-mailed to rsvp@celebratefremont.org.

About Fremont's 50th Anniversary

The city of Fremont officially came into existence on January 23, 1956. Committees are

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now forming and plans are developing for observance and celebration of the city's 50th anniversary in 2006. More information is available on the newly created Web site for the event, www.celebratefremont.org.

About the Founding of Fremont

The area now known as Fremont had been occupied for thousands of years by the Ohlone people and their ancestors when Spanish priests arrived from Mexico and founded Mission San Jose in 1797. After Mexico won independence from Spain in the early 1800's, an appointed administrator divided the mission lands into four large tracts known as Rancho del Agua Caliente, Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda, Rancho Potrero de los Cerritos, and Ex-Mission San Jose. Colonel John C. Fremont arrived in the 1840's to map a trail through Mission Pass. California's admission to the United States and the Gold Rush stimulated further migration to the area, attracting people from all parts of the world. By 1853, the communities of Mission San Jose, Centerville, Niles, Irvington, and Warm Springs had formed themselves into Washington Township. The City of Fremont officially came into existence on January 23, 1956, when citizens of these communities voted to incorporate their towns to form a single city.

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