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San Jose Office of Economic Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Jose and Tainan Celebrate 30 Years of Sister City Relationship

Tainan Mayor Tain-Tsair Hsu to meet with San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed and other key City business and culture officials to forge further ties between the two cities

SAN JOSE, CALIF.—(August 10, 2007)—The three-day 30th anniversary celebration of the sister city affiliation between San Jose, California, and Tainan, Taiwan, will be kicked off by a community reception and dinner, organized by the San Jose Tainan Sister City Program, 6 p.m., Sunday, August 12, in the San Jose City Hall Rotunda, 200 E. Santa Clara Street.

Established in 1977, the fourth sister city relationship formed by San Jose and the third formed by Tainan, the two cities' sister city relationship began due to their history of agricultural and economic similarities. As both regions grew, their economic base followed suit and diversified.

Four hundred years ago, Chinese immigrants traveled across the Taiwan Strait, the currents sent them to Tainan, which served as the base of their cultivation and exploration of Taiwan. Located at a key position on the marine route, Tainan developed into Taiwan's political, economic, trade and cultural center. The oldest and fourth largest city in Taiwan, Tainan is now a modern city of over seven hundred thousand people. It is also considered to be Taiwan's leading center of traditional culture, and is known as the "City of a Hundred Temples." While it still serves as one of Taiwan's major agricultural centers, a new science park as well as the prevalence of high tech companies is set to further position Tainan as a leading center of innovation.

"I welcome Mayor Tain-Tsair Hsu, Mayoress Shu-Chen Hsu Hung and the entire Tainan delegation to San Jose to commemorate 30 years of our sister city relationship. We celebrate today the commitment of our people to promote the economic, cultural and social interests of our two cities. The San Jose City Council and I look to further this relationship and build closer ties with Tainan for years to come," said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed.

In addition to Mayor Hsu and Mayoress Hsu Hung, other members of the Tainan delegation include representatives from the Tainan City Government's Economic Affairs Bureau, the Taiwan Information Office, the Southern Taiwan Innovation & Research Park and the Efun Technology Company.

After the community reception and dinner, the Tainan delegations will have the opportunity to learn more about many of San Jose’s initiatives and amenities, include a city overview and economic and environmental programs briefing. Then the delegation will be hosted by the San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs to a tour of the landmark California Theater as well as a meeting with Dimensions Performing Arts, an organization that advocates inter-cultural understanding by promoting performing arts and cultural activities. This will be followed by meetings with officials from the Valley Transportation Authority and a tour of the City of San Jose/City of Santa Clara Water Treatment Plant.

On Tuesday, August 14, Mayor Chuck Reed and the San Jose City Council will honor Mayor Tain-Tsair Hsu and the Tainan delegation during a ceremony taking place at approximately 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at San Jose City Hall.

“During the three decades of the San Jose and Tainan sister city relationship, our communities have undergone major transformations,” said Mayor Reed. “Today, more than 10,000 native Taiwanese live in San Jose. Annual exports from San Jose to Taiwan now exceed \$2.5 billion. This economic impact is aided by our relationship with Tainan, its leadership, and its people.”

About the City of San Jose’s Office of Economic Development

The City of San Jose's Office of Economic Development (OED) is committed to a vital, competitive San Jose economy that increases prosperity for people and companies and enhances City revenues. The Office guides the City's economic strategy, provides assistance for business success, helps connect employers with trained workers, and provides art, sporting and cultural resources to our community. For more information, please visit, www.sjeconomy.com.

About the City of San Jose

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10th largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, work, live, play and learn. For more information, visit, www.sanjoseca.gov.

About Sister Cities International

Representing more than 2,500 communities in 137 countries, Sister Cities International (www.sister-cities.org) is a citizen diplomacy network creating and strengthening partnerships between the U.S. and communities abroad. Begun in 1956 after a White House summit where U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower called for people-to-people exchanges, sister city partnerships are tailored to local interests

and increase global cooperation at the grassroots level. Sister Cities International promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation by focusing on sustainable development, youth and education, arts and culture, humanitarian assistance and economic growth programs.

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