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Mavrogenes Named as San Jose Redevelopment Director

San José ---- Harry Mavrogenes was appointed executive director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency by the San Jose City Council today.

Mavrogenes has served as the agency's interim director since December 2003 following the retirement of Susan Shick last year. Before that he was deputy director since 1998, responsible for the planning and development of major projects including the new King Library, restoration of the historic Fox Theatre, and revitalization of San Jose neighborhoods and downtown.

"Harry competed with a very strong field of candidates in the field of redevelopment, and I'm delighted he emerged as the best person for the job," said Mayor Ron Gonzales.

"His thorough knowledge of our community, long experience in redevelopment, and practical creativity for finding solutions that work combine to make him an outstanding choice to lead our Redevelopment Agency."

Prior to rejoining the Redevelopment Agency six years ago, Mavrogenes served as assistant city manager and director of economic and community development for the City of Miami Beach in Florida. For nearly twenty years before that, he worked in a variety of positions for both the San José planning department and the redevelopment agency.

A resident of San Jose, Mavrogenes received his bachelor's degree in urban studies from San Francisco State University.

"I'm both honored and humbled by this opportunity to help make San Jose the best city it can be for all our residents," said Mavrogenes. "I look forward to working with the city council, the excellent people on the agency staff, and our dedicated residents to continue the great progress we've made here already."

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“I’m confident that together we will achieve a bright future that includes stronger neighborhoods, an exciting downtown, and opportunities for jobs and prosperity for our residents.”

Gonzales recommended Mavrogenes after a national search conducted this year with the help of Avery & Associates, a local executive recruitment firm.

An active community outreach component was included as part of the search process to ensure that the concerns, ideas, and priorities of local residents and businesses were included. In addition, final candidates were interviewed by panels representing residents, businesses, and organizations from San Jose neighborhoods and downtown San Jose.

The city council also approved an annual salary of \$202,000 for the new executive director, the same level as Shick’s salary before she retired.

Under the San Jose City Charter, the mayor is responsible for recommending a candidate for redevelopment executive director for approval by the entire city council. The redevelopment director is one of the six positions appointed directly by the mayor and council.

Governed by the San José City Council, the San Jose Redevelopment Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the city’s downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas. The agency is the largest in California, with a staff of approximately one hundred people and a two-year capital investment program totaling \$285 million.

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