Office of Mayor Jerry Sanders

Announcement of the Office of Ethics and Integrity

February 9, 2006

Last week the newly created Office of Ethics and Integrity opened its "doors." This office, headed by the new Deputy Chief Ethics and Integrity, Jo Anne SawyerKnoll, has been established to lead a cultural change in ethical practices within City government so that public trust is restored in City Hall.

In the coming weeks, this office will be taking the lead in the development and administration of an audit of ethical practices in each of the divisions of city government and, as well, will be conducting an ethics survey of all city staff to determine the ethical environment present in each department or division and to determine to what extent employees understand their ethical responsibilities while working for the City. Further, this office will be developing comprehensive mandatory ethics training for all classified city employees.

In addition, this office is tasked with the review and examination of all existing City ordinances, policies and regulations related to ethical conduct and with the making of recommendations for the development of a comprehensive employee code of conduct easily accessible to all City employees.

The administration of the Employee Complaint Hotline, introduced by the City Auditor and Comptroller in December 2005, has now been officially transferred to the Office of Ethics and Integrity. The Hotline is a confidential means for any City employee to register a complaint concerning unethical and/or illegal conduct - including waste, fraud or abuse. Complaints to this Hotline can be made anonymously. The toll-free number for the Ethics Hotline is 1-866-809-3500.

The Office of Ethics and Integrity is located on the 9th floor of the City Administration Building and can be contacted by calling (619) 236-7182 or by e-mail at deputychiefethics&integrity@sandiego.gov.