

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Redevelopment Agency

Community and Economic Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, February 15, 2006 CONTACT: Tim Graham 619-533-5130 TGraham@sandiego.gov

New Parking Garage Opens in North Park

Councilmember Atkins Attends Grand Opening Event

SAN DIEGO – The North Park community today gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the North Park Parking Garage in the heart of the North Park neighborhood. The \$14.5 million project represents another step in the continued revitalization of the historic North Park community.

The five-level public parking garage offers 388 parking spaces, and 14,000 square feet of retail space designed to accommodate the increasing number of visitors and vehicles to the newly renovated North Park Theatre and the revitalizing business and cultural district along University Avenue.

"This new parking garage is truly an important milestone in the renaissance of North Park," said Mayor Jerry Sanders. "With high-quality events staged weekly at the North Park Theatre and marked improvements along the business corridor, North Park has become a destination for tourists and San Diegans alike and serves as a model for how redevelopment can work to improve our older urban communities."

The project was made possible through a collaborative effort of the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Diego (Community and Economic Development Department), private developer Arnold G. "Bud" Fisher and local community members. The Redevelopment Agency held a series of community meetings to design the parking structure and the final design is a product of that effort.

The parking garage also incorporates the community's love for arts and culture that are in keeping with the North Park neighborhood. Large display panels are positioned along the sides of the garage and will feature artwork from local artists that will be selected by community representatives.

"The North Park Parking Garage represents an excellent example of project design that truly takes the recommendations and suggestions of the community into account," said Councilmember Toni Atkins who represents the North Park neighborhood. "This project, designed entirely by the community, addresses an important need, but also symbolizes the diverse and eclectic North Park neighborhood through the incorporation of an artistic component. This garage will serve the community well for many years to come."

New Parking Garage Opens in North Park February 15, 2006 Page 2

For more information on redevelopment activities in North Park, contact the **City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency** at (619) 533-4233 or visit the City's web site at <u>www.sandiego.gov/redevelopment-agency</u>.

###

The City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency eliminates blight from designated areas, as well as achieves the goals of development, reconstruction and rehabilitation of residential, commercial, industrial, and retail districts. Redevelopment is one of the most effective ways to breathe new life into deteriorated areas plagued by social, physical, environmental or economic conditions that act as a barrier to new investment by private enterprise. **The City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency consists of three divisions:** the City Redevelopment Division (which provides overall agency management and is housed in the City of San Diego Community and Economic Development Department), the Centre City Development Corporation and the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation. Visit www.sandiego.gov/redevelopment-agency or call (619) 533-4233.