



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Community and Economic Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Seeks Input From Small Businesses At Annual Outreach Meeting

Mayor Jerry Sanders To Make Keynote Presentation

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego is reaching out to small businesses to better understand issues and concerns by holding its annual public outreach meeting of the City’s Small Business Advisory board on **Wednesday, February 22, 2006**. Businesses are encouraged to address concerns that affect their ability to do business, from fees and regulations to permits and availability of assistance programs. Feedback from small businesses at this annual event may help to refine City policies and programs.

The public outreach meeting will be held from **8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** at the **Recital Hall in Balboa Park, 2130 Pan American Plaza (Presidents Way off Park Boulevard)**. Mayor Jerry Sanders will attend the event and make a keynote address to the group. Many of the issues brought before the board will be addressed throughout the next year in the Board’s work plan and at regular monthly board meetings.

“Small businesses are the backbone of San Diego’s economy,” said Mayor Sanders. “We want to hear directly from business owners about issues that impact their ability to succeed. This is also a great opportunity to highlight many of the City’s business assistance programs available to entrepreneurs.”

Advocating regulatory relief and policy reform are key roles of the Small Business Advisory Board. The board works with the City to reduce regulations, streamline the permit process and increase opportunities for small businesses. Recent successes for the small business community, facilitated by the Board, include the establishment of relaxed sign code enforcement during major construction projects and the development of an equitable ordinance to deal with the City’s staggering number of false alarms.

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Board members are appointed by the Mayor and include leaders in the business community and representatives of key small business organizations, such as the U.S. Small Business Administration and the CDC Small Business Finance Corporation.

The City's Community and Economic Development Department provides staff support to the Board through its Office of Small Business.

For more information, contact the City of San Diego's Community and Economic Development Department at **(619) 533-4256** or visit the City's Web site at **www.sandiego.gov/ced**.

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With an emphasis on the City's urban core neighborhoods and low and moderate income residents, the Community and Economic Development Department strives to improve the quality of life and ensure a healthy economy in San Diego through job development, business development, neighborhood revitalization, public improvements, redevelopment, social services, and revenue enhancement.