

**For Immediate Release:**  
January 9, 2015

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**A New Vision for 2015 San José State of the City Event:  
Mayor Liccardo Announces Community Venue and Focus  
2015 Event Moving to Saturday, March 14 at East San José's  
Independence High; Will Include Resource Fair for Attendees**

*SAN JOSE* – Mayor Sam Liccardo is proud to announce that he is taking his first State of the City Celebration into the community and holding it on Saturday so more residents can attend. Mayor Liccardo will make his announcement regarding the State of the City in his remarks at Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco's inauguration celebration on Friday, January 9 at 7 p.m. at the Mexican Heritage Plaza.

The State of the City will be held **Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m. at Independence High School in East San José**. The Mayor's 2015 State of the City Address will outline key initiatives, budget priorities, and opportunities for residents to get engaged to make San José a safer, smarter city.

"In my inaugural address, I committed to working with residents to reimagine San José. We can reinvent the State of the City and make it easier for everyone from students to seniors to attend," said Mayor Liccardo. "As a first step, we're moving the event to the East Side to the largest high school in San Jose and holding it on a Saturday."

The event will be open to the public and include a Resource Fair with information about city services and city employment.

"You won't need a coat and tie to come to the new State of the City, and you don't need to be a political insider," Mayor Liccardo said. "We are going to celebrate San Jose's distinctive identity: our diversity, openness, and innovation."

"I am thrilled that the Mayor is bringing the State of the City to District 5—and to my alma mater," said **Councilmember Carrasco**, a graduate of Independence High School and former board member of the East Side Union High School District. "We're ready to work together to reimagine San José and showcase the East Side to the entire city."

The San José City Council boasts four Councilmembers who attended East Side high schools, and they all expressed pride that the district would be hosting State of the City.

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“Too often we’ve heard that residents and families can’t attend State of the City because it’s on a school night, or on a weekday morning when they need to get to work,” said **Councilmember Rose Herrera**, District 8 (East San Jose/Evergreen), an Overfelt High School alum. “A Saturday event, at a high school, will be welcoming and accessible.”

This is the first time in decades that the State of the City wasn’t held at a formal venue Downtown.

“If we’re going to solve some of the tough problems facing San Jose, we’re going to need to build stronger bonds between our schools and the city,” said **Councilmember Donald Rocha**, District 9 (Cambrian) who previously served on the Cambrian School Board. “Holding our most significant civic celebration at a school sends a strong message that we value and want to nurture these partnerships.”

At the State of the City Celebration, each Councilmember honors an outstanding resident or community organization from their District, and the City honors outstanding employees or employee teams.

“I am looking forward to honoring our community leaders and outstanding employees in the community at a place and time that is open and welcoming to all,” said **Councilmember Ash Kalra**, District 2 (South San Jose/Blossom Valley), a graduate of Oak Grove High School.

Fellow Oak Grove alum, **Councilmember Johnny Khamis**, District 10 (Almaden Valley/Santa Teresa) agreed, saying, “It’s important for the City Council to connect with residents in the community rather than always making the community come to City Hall.”

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