CITY OF SAN JOSE
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News Release

Office of Mayor Ron Gonzales

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New Downtown Theater Proposed for San José

Public-private venture for new 5000-seat performance venue

San José ---- A large new theater for downtown San Jose that could accommodate audiences up to 5000 people has been proposed by Silicon Valley Sports and Entertainment, the marketing and management division of the San Jose Sharks.

The SVSE proposal would be based on a public-private partnership with the City of San Jose and its redevelopment agency. The proposed theater concept is similar to the Dodge Theater in Phoenix.

SVSE has proposed developing the theater in the downtown area generally north of San Pedro Square. The proposal calls for investments of $20 million each from SVSE and the Redevelopment Agency, and $40 million to be borrowed through taxable bonds.

"This is a creative proposal that will continue the growth of downtown San Jose as the entertainment and cultural center for Silicon Valley and the Bay Region," said San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales. "Our downtown is an ideal location because a theater would complement our downtown performance venues, hotels and restaurants."

According to Councilmember Cindy Chavez who represents the downtown area, the proposal now starts a period of review, analysis, and negotiations to determine the details of the project, including design, management, and costs.

"I'm excited," said Chavez. "This clearly demonstrates that downtown San Jose is on the map to attract bold ideas and corporate investments that will benefit our community and our region. We now must dive into the hard work and careful analysis necessary to reach an agreement that is beneficial for the people of San Jose, our neighborhoods, and our downtown businesses."

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"This is the right place and the right time to complete a vision we've held for many years," said Greg Jamison, SVSE president and CEO. "We believe a partnership with the City offers tremendous benefits for this community, and we look forward to the opportunity to bring a wonderful new regional entertainment and cultural asset to downtown San Jose."

Negotiations would follow action by the Redevelopment Agency Board/City Council anticipated later this month, aiming at completing an agreement this summer. Depending on the agreement and the outcomes of market, financial and environmental analysis, construction on the new downtown theater could begin in 2005 and open in 2007.

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