

CITY OF MISSION VIEJO

*Annual "State of the City" Prayer Breakfast
Thursday, February 22nd, 2007 – 7:00am – Mission Viejo Country Club*

**Remarks from
Mayor Gail Reavis**

Good morning...I'd like to thank everyone for coming this morning and the Chamber for making this event

We are fortunate to be the stewards of this wonderful city; it is the CITY OF MISSION VIEJO itself that is the star today. We will keep the introductions short; in order to show you a 5 minute video about our Star produced by our own Eric Winters and Karen Wylie.

First, let's begin with the City council JP Ledesma Mayor pro tem, Lance MacLean, Trish Kelley and Frank Ury.

Next I'd like to have all of our commissioners please stand. These are members of our PC, Community Svc, and Investment Advisory Commissions.

Next, our chief of police services, Steve Bernardi. Steve and his deputies keep Mission Viejo rated as the safest city year after year.

And, lastly, our city staff if you would please take a bow.

Special Guest new 5th Dist Supervisor, Pat Bates.

MISSION VIEJO, THE CALIFORNIA PROMISE: Is it just a slogan or is it more?

I say its more and hope to paint you a picture of it today.

THOMAS JEFFERSON said "the care of human life and happiness is the first and only legitimate object of good government".

Mission Viejo has given 19 years of care resulting in much happiness for our residents. This year, we hit the ground running. Anyone who has visited my office this year can see we have goals, target dates, and who is working on the assignment.

Since we are judged by what we finish and not what we start, let's take a look at what's in store for 2007.

Top of the list is to get recertified by the State of California by July 1, on our affordable housing element. (Just in time for our new RHNA numbers). Councilman MacLean and I head that committee, certification will happen.

Second on the list is CUSD. We have three school districts in the city, and as we have all watched the Tsunami in the Capo district, it cannot help but effect the quality of life in Mission Viejo. We have been promised a completed audit by March 19, and will soon be meeting with

the new Trustees and Interim Superintendent to rehabilitate our schools and get our fair share of the tax dollars we provide them.

Third is the big item you came for today. Economic Development. The city has been working closely with the So Orange Cty Chambers of Commerce to raise awareness of benefits to our residents to Shop Mission Viejo.

Councilwoman Kelley and I chair the standing Economic Development committee and have set up a schedule beginning with a proposal from consultants for a business plan which will be brought before the full council this spring. She will be representing the city at the Shopping Centers Conference in Las Vegas in May. (I have a prior commitment).

This week the council gave direction to staff for temporary signage at the freeway exits for automobile dealers. We could not survive without the tax revenue your businesses provide. Upon completion of Crown Valley Pkwy, new monuments with signage will be placed in many districts in the area. A blend of aesthetics and practical salesmanship.

We have met with the Macy's group to give input on the replacement for their current double occupancy at the Shops. Simon Corp has pledged to install approved signage visible from the freeway so that The Shops can be the destination it deserves to be. Soon, you will be hearing about Mall Expansion Plans that should start by the end of this year.

The city council is looking at ways to upgrade some of our older shopping centers. This week we contracted with the Urban Land Institute to do a study on the oldest shopping area in the city across from city hall.

You will be happy to hear that we will be receiving back the new sign ordinance from the PC by mid March.

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY CAN EXPECT SUCCESS. You have requested changes, and the council is listening. What's more, we **ARE DELIVERING** more than we promise.

The expansion of the Murray Center has been promised for 2008. The Widening of Crown Valley completion this year, with artwork and landscaping amenities right behind.

The MV Community Foundation has planned its Inaugural Ball this May 5 and I hope you all will be supporting it. To date, they have raised over \$500,000.

We are guardians of the public purse, and with the rising cost of construction materials, it requires vigilance from staff, council and our vendors.

Speaking of development. We see a lot of movement at the Steadfast sight, and hear that UDR is moving ahead with engineering. We are getting a second Target store this year, and the hospital expansion is well underway.

The city is continuing a methodical calendar of traffic improvements. When Crown Valley is completed, we will move to Oso Parkway to add new lanes, then on to La Paz near Chrisanta to add lanes.

The city council has approved installation of Emergency Vehicle Preemption Devices at various locations in the city. And we are part of an OCTA study for traffic signal timing. The renewal of Measure M passed in November, and that is good for the city.

Congressman Miller helped the city secure a federal grant which began the design of the Camino Capistrano Bridge in late 2006. This will be a big help to anyone trying to use Avery.

We continue to renovate three of our city parks each year, and this next month will be dedicating the city's newest park (#) the Sergeant Matt Davis Park. We will publicize the date and hope you will join us.

Our city Library continues to garner rave reviews from visitors and is doing very well with the in house Passport Acceptance Service. Residents wishing to travel can now acquire a passport quickly right here in the city. The proceeds buy new books.

With the new government reporting rules, the City Council has set out another comprehensive plan and has begun setting aside reserves to fund the retiree healthcare for our city employees. We have all watched states and counties struggling to mend this breach; in Mission Viejo we have done more than just talk about it.

We do all this with city revenues of \$54 million. That is roughly \$545 and change for every resident in the city. You have to admit, we stretch your money pretty far.

Our Veterans and Memorial Day services continue to grow, we have added the American Heroes Flags and this year Gordon Dillow has accepted our invitation to be guest speaker on Veterans Day.

I'll let you in on a little secret. I'm trying to get Michael Lopez Alegria, Mission Viejo's home grown astronaut to be our guest speaker at the Walk Against Drugs in October.

Congressman Gary Miller is helping by contacting NASA, our elementary school children will be writing letters and we are reaching out to each of you to help us encourage Mr. Alegria to come in October and lift our youth to new heights.

Now ladies and gentlemen I invite you to enjoy this 5 minute video featuring the parks, recreation and many of the reasons people move to Mission Viejo.

As you can see, Mission Viejo the California Promise IS more than just a slogan. It is the promise we keep to each of you every day.