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SUNSHINE REFORM TASK FORCE PURPOSE AND INTENT STATEMENT

March 24, 2008

The City Council and the People of the City of San Jose find and declare that:

(a) The City of San Jose's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. The City of San Jose is committed to open and honest government and strives to consistently meet the community's expectations by providing excellent service, in a positive and timely manner.

(b) Elected officials, commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City exist to conduct the people's business.

(c) As government evolves, so must the laws designed to ensure that the process remains visible and open.

(d) The right of the people to know what their government and those acting on behalf of their government are doing is fundamental to democracy.

(e) The public has the right to an open and public process in all matters regarding the people's business

(f) The provisions of this Sunshine Ordinance supersede other local laws. Whenever a conflict in local law is identified, the requirement that would result in greater public access to public information shall apply.

(g) The provisions of this Sunshine Ordinance are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or portion of this chapter, or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstances, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.