

## City of San Leandro

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# SAN LEANDRO NEWS

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CITY OF SAN LEANDRO NAMES CHRIS ZAPATA NEW CITY MANAGER**

Mayor Stephen Cassidy announced that at a special meeting this evening, the San Leandro City Council voted 6-0 (Vice Mayor Gregory was out of town) and selected Mr. Chris Zapata as the new City Manager. The selection follows a thorough nationwide search in which 51 candidates applied for the position. Zapata currently serves as City Manager in National City, California.

“The City Council and I were highly impressed with Chris’ leadership skills, action-oriented management style, knowledge and insight into the key issues facing San Leandro, and expertise in municipal finance and economic development,” stated Mayor Cassidy. “Throughout his career in the public sector, Chris has built an extensive record of substantial accomplishments. We are honored to have a person of his caliber as our new City Manager and are confident Chris will provide San Leandro outstanding leadership for many years to come. “

“I am grateful for this unique opportunity and look forward to working with the City Council, City staff, and the community in moving San Leandro forward in an exciting direction,” stated Zapata. He will begin his new job on January 30, 2012, and plans on living in San Leandro.

“It’s important to me to not only serve the city for which I work, but to also become a part of that community,” added Zapata.

A 25-year local government professional, Zapata has served as City Manager in National City since 2004. During his leadership in National City, a diverse urban coastal community of 60,000 in south San Diego County, the municipality has proactively responded to the fiscal challenges

facing all cities in California through numerous strategies including organizational efficiency measures and passage of a temporary sales tax measure. National City successfully expanded and diversified its business base and bayfront under his guidance.

Prior to his tenure in National City, Zapata served as Glendale, Arizona's Deputy City Manager after serving as that city's Utilities Director. Born and raised in Arizona, he has also served as City Manager in Eloy and Town Administrator for Superior in the Grand Canyon State. Zapata holds a Bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University. No stranger to the Bay Area, Zapata's daughter, Dr. Jade Zapata, is a San Francisco psychiatrist and his son, Lee Michael Zapata, is a recent Stanford graduate.

A new state law, AB 1344 effective January 1, 2012, requires that the compensation of executive officers of local agencies be discussed at regularly scheduled meetings of the agencies.

Accordingly, the City Council will review and vote upon an employment contract with Zapata at its next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

#### About San Leandro

A diverse community of nearly 85,000 residents centrally located in the San Francisco Bay Area, San Leandro maintains a safe, small town feel where neighbors care for each other, while offering a wide range of shopping, dining, recreation, miles of shoreline, and easy access to nearby regional parks and nature areas. Over the past decade the community has invested more than \$250 million in renovating and modernizing its public schools and building state-of-the-art facilities for students.

Possessing a rich manufacturing history, businesses in San Leandro enjoy multiple advantages including a large industrial and commercial zone, close proximity to the Oakland International Airport and Port of Oakland, two major freeways, two BART stations, and access to a large and well-educated workforce in the city and East Bay. Through a public-private partnership, known as Lit San Leandro, a ten mile fiber optic loop is being constructed in the city, assisting a new set of businesses to leverage San Leandro's assets and become industry leaders in the data

revolution. Further information about Lit San Leandro can be found at <http://www.litsanleandro.com/>

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