

For Immediate Release
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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

SAM LICCARDO, MAYOR OF CALIFORNIA'S THIRD LARGEST CITY, ENDORSES ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA FOR GOVERNOR

Liccardo cites Villaraigosa's pragmatic approach to tackling state's biggest challenges – lack of affordable housing and economic opportunity for all

SAN JOSE, CA – Today, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo endorsed Antonio Villaraigosa's bid to become the next governor of California. Liccardo, who leads California's third largest city, not only gave his endorsement, but also committed to working with Villaraigosa to take-on some of California's toughest challenges.

"I'm proud to endorse Antonio Villaraigosa for governor of California. I look forward to working with him to narrow California's economic divide and to build more affordable housing," said Liccardo. "Antonio's record of building coalitions and his pragmatic approach are just what we need to broaden economic opportunity to all Californians."

"Mayor Liccardo understands we need to create more economic equality and opportunity for all California families, and I'm honored to have his endorsement," said Villaraigosa. "We need a multi-faceted approach to the California housing crisis, and we need innovative and thoughtful leaders like Sam. His 15-point housing plan for San Jose is the kind of proposal that we need to look at as we work to fix our broken housing system across the state."

The endorsement was made following a tour of The Vermont House, a newly-renovated housing facility for homeless veterans, where the two leaders hosted a roundtable discussion on the issue of housing affordability and homelessness. Mayor Villaraigosa discussed his housing plan that includes building 3.5 million new homes by 2025. To achieve this, Villaraigosa is calling for CEQA reforms, streamlined approvals for affordable housing development, establishing a public/private partnership of matching funds, and encouraging first-time home buyers to invest in a savings home ownership plan. Villaraigosa has also called for giving local governments back the power to fund strategic local investments by capturing the increased tax revenues generated by new projects.

Liccardo joins a long list of elected officials from across the state who are supporting Villaraigosa's gubernatorial campaign. Recently, Villaraigosa received endorsements from the

California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)

On January 1, 2015, Sam Liccardo became San Jose's 65th mayor and one of the youngest individuals to serve in San Jose's highest elected office. As mayor, Sam Liccardo has worked hard to build a safer and stronger San Jose. He led the effort to resolve years of pension disputes and begin to restore the police department. He worked to bring new economic opportunities and jobs to the city of San Jose. And he is committed to using best practices and new innovations to making city government more effective for all residents.

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