



News Release

For Immediate Release

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SAN JOSÉ CITY COUNCILMEMBER PETE CONSTANT URGES CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS TO MAKE SCHEDULES PUBLIC

SAN JOSÉ, CA – Today, San José City Councilmember Pete Constant issued a challenge to all Senate and Assembly Rules Committee Members, urging them to review the current interpretation of the Legislative Open Records Act and to change the Standing Rules of the two houses to give explicit direction to Members to disclose their calendars.

“I believe in open and transparent government,” Constant explained, “Just as important is the ability for the public to quickly and easily find access to public documents.” Since taking office in January 2007, Constant has been a strong advocate for making government more transparent. He was the first Councilmember to make his calendar available to the public and did so within three months of taking office. Taking San José Mayor Chuck Reed’s Sunshine Reforms one step further, Constant is the only Councilmember to have created a customized searchable calendar that enables users to search his calendar by either the date or keywords.

Councilmember Constant has received accolades from many, including the San José Mercury News, for his commitment to disclosure. “Constant’s calendar is setting a good example in other ways. It’s updated three times a week to include the current day, and his entries give names and affiliations of his visitors, not just vague notations.” (3/20/2007 Mercury News Editorial)

www.mercurynews.com/sunshinelaw/ci_5555101

Councilmember Constant created a page on his website entitled “Open Government” in which he posts all memos generated from his office, all required disclosure documents, and all financial documents for his 2006 and 2010 political campaigns. www.sjdistrict1.com/opengovernment/index.html

“Demonstrating my commitment to practices of open government, I post all public documents that pertain to my service as an elected official and campaign activities on my official and campaign websites. I hope that by taking this step of commitment to open government, others will follow suit. This will ensure that all interested parties have unfettered access to public documents and that the public’s business will be done in public.”

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