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December 16, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Miriam Lens
City Clerk
(510) 583-4401
Miriam.lens@hayward-ca.gov

HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS TO START AT 7:00 PM, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 5, 2010

Effective January 5, 2010, the Hayward City Council is changing the starting time of City Council meetings from 8:00 pm to 7:00 pm; and they are combining work sessions with the regular Council meetings. Council is taking this action for two reasons: one, to increase the transparency of work sessions; and two, to foster greater participation in Council discussion and debate by the community.

Work sessions have been held in Room 2A of City Hall rather than the Council Chambers. While this has provided a more intimate and informal setting, Room 2A is not set up to televise meetings. By moving the work sessions to the Council Chambers, work sessions can be televised and streamed over the internet just as Council meetings are. This will allow the community the ability to hear and learn from these more detailed discussions of important topics just as Council does.

The early start time of work sessions and the late start time of Council did not always allow for working families to easily participate. By starting at 7:00 pm, Council hopes to provide greater opportunity for community participation in Council discussions and deliberations.

Council took this action at the Hayward City Council meeting of December 15, 2009, by unanimously approving Resolution 09-189, which adjusts the start time of City Council meetings to 7:00 pm, effective January 5, 2010. Hayward residents and businesses have the option of being added to an email distribution list to receive agendas on a regular basis by sending a request to cityclerk@hayward-ca.gov.

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Office of the City Clerk

777 B Street, Hayward, CA 94541-5007
Tel: 510/583-4400 Fax: 510/583-3636