



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF MURRIETA HOSTS MENORAH LIGHTING

Hanukkah Celebrated Regionally

Murrieta, CA – To honor Hanukkah, the City of Murrieta hosted a Menorah Lighting on Monday evening at Town Square Park. Approximately 75 attendees witnessed the celebration, including members of the Jewish faith, City Council Members, and others. City staff worked closely with the congregation from B’Nai Chaim Synagogue of Murrieta to ensure the observance followed proper Hanukkah traditions and a member of the Temecula Chabad constructed a 12-foot, powdered-coated steel menorah that will remain at Town Square Park. Dane Wunderlich of Murrieta also constructed a six-foot wooden Menorah that will also be on display.

The Murrieta Menorah at Town Square Park will be lit at 5:00 p.m. on each of the eight days of Hanukkah, concluding on Sunday, December 13. The public is welcome to attend and witness the lighting each evening, free of charge.

The effort was organized by Council Member Jonathan Ingram who began working on the event in December 2014, when he noticed that the City of Temecula was supporting the Temecula Chabad and their Menorah Lighting event. Regional efforts are moving forward to have a Menorah Lighting event at each of the cities in Southwest Riverside County.

“It is important that we recognize other faiths,” said Council Member Ingram. “We have a large Jewish population in the Murrieta Valley and they should be recognized.”

The City of Murrieta recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Omer, Israel this past summer to establish a “Twin City Strategic Partnership”. The Partnership will jointly promote travel, tourism, economic development, and student exchanges. Omer boasts several high-technology businesses, and includes an important focus on Israel’s burgeoning cybersecurity industry. As part of this new agreement, Council Member Rick Gibbs visited Israel last month to meet with city leaders and to visit high-technology companies in order to make linkages to Murrieta technology companies.

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