



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Jan. 25, 2008

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### **Mayor delivers annual State of the City address**

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** – Riverside Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge wants the world to know that the City of Riverside has come of age in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

“This an extraordinary time in the history of the city,” he said yesterday in the annual State of the City address to approximately 1,000 people at the Riverside Convention Center. The event was hosted by the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

The mayor said Riverside was entering a new age of political, economic and cultural change. Notable among these, he said, is the dedication to be the “City of Arts for the Inland Empire.”

“City of the Arts can define and strengthen the future of Riverside, both in economic development and in quality of life,” Mayor Loveridge said. “In an increasingly diverse city, arts can highlight and demonstrate respect and understanding. It is time for Riverside to seize the moment and take lead as the City of the Arts in the Inland Empire.”

He noted other success stories from 2007 – the Riverside Renaissance; a vibrant university community; the high employment rate; a booming retail market; the inroads of local high-tech industries; the beefing up of city public safety facilities; and major traffic improvements.

However, he warned, Riverside in 2008 will still have to contend with some of the same issues – the impact of increased goods movement; railroad grade separations; noise from DHL aircraft; and maintaining a “clean and green” city.

While acknowledging that the city faces a \$10 million loss of revenue this year because of an economic downturn in real estate and housing markets, the mayor said Riverside’s retained surplus of \$46 million is one of the largest percentages of major cities in California.

“Every city must continually invent its future – to keep defining what kind of place it wants to be,” he said. “2008 offers important opportunities.”

The full text of the mayor’s speech is available at [www.riversideca.gov/mayor](http://www.riversideca.gov/mayor).

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