



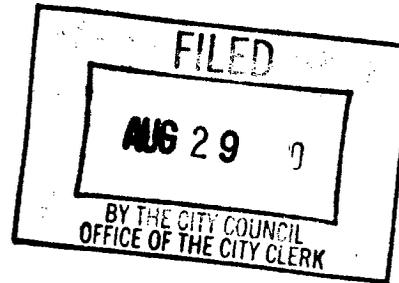
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DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
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August 14, 2000

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: CITY OF SACRAMENTO'S 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
- GOLD RUSH DAYS, SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2000**

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** Citywide

**RECOMMENDATION:** For Council information only

**CONTACT PERSON:** Alan Tomiyama, Administrative Services Officer  
150th Anniversary Citywide Coordinator, 264-8958

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** August 29, 2000

**SUMMARY:**

The City of Sacramento, Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau, Old Sacramento Management Board, Discovery Museum, and California State Railroad Museum have joined forces to create Gold Rush Days, a historic tribute to the gold rush era to be held Labor Day weekend 2000. The event will serve as the highlight of the City's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Office has earmarked \$50,000 towards this event.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The main event for the City of Sacramento's anniversary celebration will be Gold Rush Days, a festival commemorating the City's rich multicultural heritage, scheduled from September 1-4, 2000.

Situated in historic Old Sacramento, Gold Rush Days will transform this commercial sector back to the gold rush era. Old Sacramento is home to the largest concentration of historic buildings in the State. It features one of the world's largest railroad museums, the California State Railroad Museum; the historic Sacramento waterfront depicting an 1870 riverside scene with paddle wheelers and sailing vessels; and the Eagle Theatre, the first theater built west of the Mississippi.

Old Sacramento will appear just as authentic as it did during the gold rush era. The streets will be covered in dirt and motor vehicles will not be allowed into the area. There will be miners' tents, saloons, a jail, a blacksmith shop, an apothecary and theatre; workers dressed in period costume; shops and saloons will sell the merchandise products and food of the period; and street dramas, musicians and story tellers will provide lively gold rush style entertainment.

Ethnic villages will be created to display the various ethnic communities involved in the gold rush depicting life the way it was for them, good and bad, during the 1800's. Storytellers and historians will provide lively narration accurately depicting the lives and times of Native Americans, Africans, Asians, Mexican ranchers and miners and others.

A living history will envelope Old Sacramento, including sheriffs and jailers, miners, stagecoach drivers, barbers (doctors), merchants, print shop workers, spinning and rope making, blacksmiths, and carpenters. The streets and selected venues will have a constant schedule of various forms of re-enactment, including the historic Eagle Theatre hosting authentic entertainment of the era; various ethnic communities performing musical and dramatic scenes; the arrival of the Pony Express; and the excitement of new gold discoveries.

In addition, a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary BBQ will be held on the 1849 historic grounds in Old Sacramento. Tickets are \$49 per person, which includes a number raffle prizes, complimentary photograph in period costume, tickets to the Discovery Museum, Railroad Museum, and a complementary 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary water-color poster signed and numbered by local artist David Lobenberg. Patrons are asked to attend the event dressed in period costumes or western wear. It is estimated that 1,000 people will attend this event. The festive evening event tops-off with thundering fireworks above the waters of the Sacramento River compliments of the Sacramento Rivercats.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The total amount allocated to Gold Rush Days 2000 is \$50,000. Funds are available in the FY 01 budget.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

This effort is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

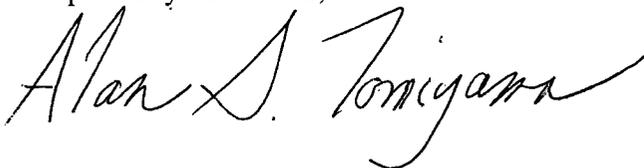
**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

None

**ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:**

Not Applicable

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Tomiyama  
Administrative Services Officer  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Citywide Coordinator

APPROVED:



Robert Thomas  
City Manager