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For Immediate Release

CLOVIS CHAMBER C.E.O. ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Mark Blackney Announces Retirement after Fourteen Years with the Chamber of Commerce

Clovis, CA, August 3, 2017 – Clovis Chamber of Commerce C.E.O. Mark Blackney announced today that he will retire from his post effective immediately. He has worked for the organization since 2003 and served as the C.E.O. since 2007. Mr. Blackney’s wife, Fran, who also served in a leadership position at the Chamber of Commerce, passed away unexpectedly in November 2015. Mark is looking forward to spending time with his family and pursuing personal interests.

The Clovis Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1912 with the mission of “supporting a healthy business environment which improves the quality of life in Clovis.” 105 years later, the Chamber still supports that same goal through a number of programs, events and services. Big Hat Days and ClovisFest, two of the biggest outdoor events in the valley are operated and managed by the Clovis Chamber of Commerce to help promote business and community spirit in Clovis; the annual Business Expo is a trade show designed to introduce citizens and businesses to Chamber of Commerce membership by encouraging them to show off their individual service and products; the Young Entrepreneur’s Academy is a program designed to encourage teens to learn about business and leadership through the creation of a real enterprise; monthly mixers allow members and potential members to gather for casual networking; and a number of other events and services are designed to help the business community thrive.

As Mr. Blackney steps down, he is able to assure Chamber of Commerce members, as well as the entire community that the organization is in good hands. “For the time being,” explained Layla Forstedt, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, “former board president Gary Honeycutt will be serving as the interim director. We will begin a search for a permanent director next week.”

“Other board members will be assisting the Chamber staff to assure that there is no interruption in service to members or the community.” explained Shawn Miller, City of Clovis Business Development Manager. “The Chamber is in good hands.”

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