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san francisco

BUSINESS

VOL. 25, NO. 1

a publication of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Chair Jim Woolwine Sets Strategic Direction for 2008



Jim Woolwine, chair of Presidio Bank, takes the helm as the Chamber's 2008 chair this month. Woolwine, who has served on the Chamber's Board of Directors since 2003,

recently presided over the board's annual planning conference, at which he articulated the organization's strategic direction for the coming months.

"The Chamber has an excellent professional staff, which is more than capable of producing results in the areas of public policy, economic development and member services," says Woolwine. "The role of the board and its Executive Committee is to set priorities for accomplishing the Chamber's mission of attracting, retaining and developing business in San Francisco."

Chamber priorities for 2008 can be aggregated into the following areas:

Building a Sustainable SF: The Chamber will promote two major projects that have great potential for jobs and economic opportunity:

- **Build-out of Candlestick Point and the Hunters Point Shipyard,** which promises jobs for city residents – and a new stadium for professional sports.

- **High-speed rail** between San Francisco and Los Angeles, which has the potential to revolutionize the state's transportation infrastructure and reinvigorate the statewide economy.

Good Government: The Chamber will continue to take the lead in promoting policies for more efficient and effective government that supports sustainable business growth. In 2008, particular attention will be paid to local business tax policies. The Chamber will make recommendations on a business tax structure that is fair, equitable and does not harm business attraction, retention or job growth.

The Chamber will also continue to monitor the city's implementation of its new economic strategic plan and the requirement to consider the economic impacts of any newly proposed legislation.

Safety and Security: The Chamber will explore the feasibility of and interest level in a new Downtown Community Benefit District, and making San Francisco's streets and public areas safe for residents, employees and visitors. At the same time, the Chamber will continue to lend its support to efforts that increase services for homeless individuals and other individuals in need of assistance.

Small Business: The Chamber will continue to engage San Francisco's small businesses through outreach to neighborhood businesses, increased services to help small businesses grow and prosper and a renewed emphasis on city contracting with small businesses.

Climate Change: The Chamber will continue the initiative begun with last September's CitySummit to engage businesses in providing solutions to the climate change crisis and encouraging the growth of clean tech industry in San Francisco.

"The Chamber and its leadership team look forward to realizing success in these areas, to contributing to a better San Francisco and to nurturing the achievements of our member companies," says Woolwine.

