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32nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Starts the Holiday Season Off Right



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PERRIS, Calif. (December 9, 2019) -- The City of Perris hosted its annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the City Hall Campus on December 6, 2019 at the City Hall Campus.

In attendance for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony were City of Perris Mayor Michael M. Vargas, Mayor Pro Tem Marisela Magaña, Council Member Malcolm Corona, Council Member David Starr Rabb, Assistant City Manager Isabel Carlos, Assistant City Manager Clara Miramontes, City of Perris Director of Community Services Sabrina Chavez and Interim Director of Administrative Services Saida Amozgar, as well as other city staff and volunteers.



Cloudy skies and rain clouds were not enough to keep more than 1500 residents from attending the 32nd annual event, which featured 14 performances from local community groups, including chorale singing, folklorico and hip-hop dancing and bands. Additionally, 10 vendor and information booths and even a surprise visit from Santa Claus himself, arriving on a Cal Fire Fire Engine, as the crowd joined in chorus to "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez kicked off the annual event by welcoming everyone to one of the City's most memorable events of the year.



"This is one of our favorite events of the year," said Belmudez. "What makes it one of our favorites is giving back to all of you, so thank you for coming!"

Mayor Michael M. Vargas also addressed the audience.



"I am glad to see so many people who braved the weather and attended this event," said Vargas. "We wish you all a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year!"

Peter the Polar Bear was also in attendance bringing holiday cheer to those in attendance. Peter is also going to helping with the City's Instagram #PolarPerris Challenge. Residents are encouraged to look for Peter around town, give him a warm hug, take a picture and post to their Instagram accounts using the hashtag #PolarPerris. There is no limit to the number of entries per user, but users must be following the City of Perris Instagram account and their account must be publicly viewable. In January, the City's social media team will review the hashtag for the individual photo with the most likes to win a prize!



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