

Incorporation adds to chamber's annual dinner

By Mary Duenwald
Times Tribune staff

SAN JOSE — The imminent incorporation of East Palo Alto added an air of celebration to the second annual dinner of the East Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce.

"This is indeed a history-making event," said Santa Clara County Municipal Court Judge LaDoris Hazzard-Cordell, mistress of ceremonies. "At the Chamber of Commerce dinner last year, cityhood was very thick in the air. Now it is a reality."

The city of East Palo Alto officially will be incorporated on Friday evening, when the five new City Council members are sworn in and the first City Council meeting is held.

The Chamber of Commerce, formed in May of 1982, officially supported incorporation. East Palo Alto residents voted to incorporate their city by a 15-vote margin on June 7.

"The business community has been very supportive of incorporation," said Ruben Abrica, who has

been elected to serve on the new East Palo Alto City Council.

Ronald James, president of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, who was the keynote speaker at the Chamber dinner, said the business people of East Palo Alto must provide leadership to the new city.

"Your city is brand new, and your Chamber of Commerce is now two years old," James said. "What a great opportunity to grow together."

He said the business people must insist that their new city provide "good schools, good health care

and good government. The private sector pays for city government, and you should be part of your government's development."

Iola Williams, San Jose City Council member, said, "It is indeed a pleasure to refer to you as citizens of East Palo Alto. East Palo Alto dared to dream, and now that dream has become a reality."

About 300 people attended the Chamber dinner at the Red Lion Inn in San Jose. Although there was frequent applause for remarks about cityhood, not all members of the Chamber had voted for it.



LaDoris Hazzard-Cordell
... 'a history-making event.'