

**City of Milpitas**

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Milpitas Brings Real-Time, Automated Translation to Public Meetings with Wordly

Milpitas, CA – May 22, 2024 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Milpitas marked a significant milestone in promoting inclusivity and accessibility with the introduction of Wordly, a cutting-edge real-time translation tool at the May 21 City Council meeting. Wordly uses real-time Artificial Intelligence transcription capabilities and can provide instant translation and captions to mobile phones, computers, and video displays in over 50 languages. The City aims to break down language barriers and ensure that all residents can easily access information real-time in public meetings through the platform, regardless of their language proficiency.

Mayor Carmen Montano expressed excitement about the use of Wordly in public meetings, stating, "We believe that effective communication is the cornerstone of an inclusive and welcoming community. With the introduction of real-time translation services, we are taking proactive steps to ensure that language differences do not hinder civic participation in Milpitas."

Councilmember Garry Barbadillo also shared, "By harnessing the power of technology, Milpitas City Council meetings will now offer seamless translation services in multiple languages, empowering every member of our community to fully comprehend and engage in vital discussions and decisions."

Milpitas is home to 81,000 residents, of which 68% of residents speak a language other than English at home (US Census), with Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Spanish being the most common.

According to Information Technology Director Daniel Nam, "The launch of Wordly not only enhances accessibility for residents but also exemplifies the City's commitment to leveraging technology for the

betterment of our community. Even as we celebrate this significant milestone, we are continuing to explore opportunities to further enhance participation through real-time two-way translation.”

“I want to extend my gratitude to our Information Technology Director Daniel Nam in spearheading the launch of Wordly. This transformative initiative underscores the City’s shared vision of fostering a community where every voice is valued and heard,” said City Manager Ned Thomas.

The City invites community members to experience the benefits of real-time AI translation and captioning firsthand by attending upcoming City Council meetings. Experience the power of the new translation service by simply clicking <https://milpitas.gov/gr-wordly-council> and choosing your preferred language to engage in the next Milpitas City Council meeting. The Milpitas City Council typically meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Community members must bring their own devices and earphones to be able to listen to or read the words on their device screen. Interpretation in American Sign Language must be requested via email to the City Clerk’s Office cityclerk@milpitas.gov at least four business days before the meeting.

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About the City of Milpitas

Located at the southern end of San Francisco Bay, Milpitas is a progressive community that is an integral part of Silicon Valley. A full-service city with water utility, sewer utility, police and fire services, Milpitas is a flourishing community with a very diverse and inclusive resident population of nearly 80,000. Often referred to as the Crossroads of Silicon Valley, the City is situated between major thoroughfares in the Bay Area and considered a highly desirable location for world-class technology companies seeking to build a central base of operations. With the addition of the new Milpitas Transit Center offering BART, light rail, and bus service, and multiple new mixed-use development projects, along with a host of new City Plans and Programs in support of an inspiring and sustainable future, the City is at the forefront of building the next generation economy. For more information, visit: www.milpitas.gov

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