



## **City of Milpitas**

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### **Milpitas Fire Department Showcases Exemplary Response in Recent Emergency**

Milpitas, CA – January 20, 2024 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On January 17, at approximately 6:19 am, the Milpitas Fire Department was dispatched to the address of 88 South Park Victoria Drive for a reported Structure Fire. Within minutes, highly trained firefighters and emergency response teams were on the scene to find a single-story strip mall with a large fire in a business located in the center of the building that was quickly spreading to adjacent attached businesses. Recognizing the potential for the rapidly spreading fire to overwhelm on-duty resources, firefighters quickly requested a second alarm from the communications center and initiated an aggressive attack on the main body of fire with multiple hose lines. Additionally, firefighters quickly forced entry to the surrounding businesses to conduct Search and Rescue Operations, while additional crews strategically placed hose lines in those businesses in an effort to stop the fire from spreading.

The swift response of the firefighters and excellent tactical decisions made at the incident scene led to the fire being extinguished before it could consume the entire building. Of the roughly seven businesses that were contained in the strip mall, three sustained substantial damage and two suffered moderate smoke and water damage. The three businesses that sustained the heaviest fire damage include a variety store, an insurance office, and a taekwondo studio located at 88, 92 and 96 South Park Victoria Drive, respectively.

Mayor Carmen Montano shared, "I am proud to lead a City with such a capable and dedicated Fire Department. The successful outcome of this operation is a testament to the department's readiness, expertise, and ability to handle challenging situations."

The Milpitas Fire Department played a crucial role in preventing further damage and ensuring the safety of residents in the affected area. Small strip mall fires present unique challenges to firefighters as they typically share a common attic absent firewalls, which allows the fire to quickly spread from the occupancy of origin to neighboring businesses. Compounding the challenges at this particular fire was the absence of a fire sprinkler system, which allowed the fire to quickly grow and spread prior to the Fire Department arriving. The department's commitment to public safety was evident as they worked seamlessly to control and extinguish the fire.



“I want to express my gratitude and pride in the exceptional efforts of the Milpitas Fire Department in response to the recent fire emergency at 88 South Park Victoria Drive. The dedication and courage displayed by our firefighting personnel exemplify the highest standards of service and commitment to the well-being of our community,” said Councilmember Hon Lien.

Milpitas Fire Department Chief Jason Schoonover shared, “We remain steadfast in our department’s mission to protect lives, property, and the community. The success of this recent emergency response is a testament to the Fire Department's ongoing commitment to excellence in emergency services.”

The cause of the fire is currently being investigated by the Milpitas Fire Marshal’s Office.

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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](http://www.milpitas.gov)

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