



## LETTER of RECOGNITION

**Jose Reyes**

**For Bravery and Valor in a Life-Saving Rescue**

*WHEREAS, On Saturday, August 2, 2008, at 11:10 PM, the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 323 South Voluntario Street, Apartment A; and*

*WHEREAS, when the first engine arrived they saw flames and smoke coming from windows on the second floor. Firefighters extinguished the fire and although fire damage was confined to one room, there was heat and smoke damage throughout the entire second floor; and*

*WHEREAS, the occupants of the apartment, the Reyes family, were home at the time of the fire. While most family members were downstairs watching television, three younger members, 5 year-old Tiara, 6-year old Alisafan and 11-year old Abner were upstairs sleeping. Tiara was awakened by the sound of the smoke detector. She went to Alisafan's room, woke him, and together they went downstairs; and*

*WHEREAS, at the same time the older brother JOSE REYES and future brother-in-law, JOSE ACOSTA, used fire extinguishers to try to put the fire out but were unsuccessful due to the size of the fire and the intensity of the smoke. When they went downstairs they realized that Abner was missing; and*

*WHEREAS, both JOSE REYES and JOSE ACOSTA returned upstairs despite the intense smoke. By that time the smoke level was so low that they had to crawl on the floor to Abner's room. They found him in his bed still asleep, pulled him out of the bed and dragged him downstairs. Both inhaled smoke during the rescue but were in relatively good condition after the incident.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTY BLUM, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, do hereby recognize and commend the bravery and valor exhibited by JOSE REYES and JOSE ACOSTA on August 2, 2008, as they saved Abner Reyes from death or serious injury by removing him from the burning apartment. Their lack of hesitation to render care and their actions contributed to the successful rescue efforts and were vitally important to the positive outcome of this incident.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008.*

*Marty Blum*  
MARTY BLUM, MAYOR

