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City of Beverly Hills Announces Team Beverly Hills Participants

Thirty-two residents selected for 15th annual program

Beverly Hills, CA – The Beverly City Council has announced the names of the 2010 Class of residents who were selected to participate in the City's educational program called Team Beverly Hills. Classes, which begin in September, will kick-off the 15th year of this successful program having approximately 390 graduates. Team BH is a unique program that provides an overview of the operations of Beverly Hills' local government.

The current 32 members were selected through an application process (15 picked by lottery; 15 picked by the City Council; and two chosen by the Beverly Hills Unified School District). Over a period of seven months, Team Beverly Hills members will meet on 10 occasions and participate in tours, presentations and demonstrations. Highlights from previous programs include:

- Lectures by City officials and representatives including the Mayor and City Councilmembers, City Treasurer, City Attorney, City Manager and Department Heads;
- Open dialogue with City officials and City representatives to provide an understanding of issues, opportunities and challenges facing the City;
- Presentations and interactive demonstrations;
- Walking and driving tours of City facilities and public/private sites; and
- Recognition and graduation program for current team members and all alumni members.

Creating a core of informed and engaged citizens who are willing to serve in local government is one of the primary reasons Team Beverly Hills was created in 1996 by then-Mayor Tom Levyn and then-Traffic & Parking Commissioner Larry Kohn. The results are apparent; over the past 13 years, numerous Team Beverly Hills alumni members have gone on to become commissioners and two have served as elected officials: City Councilmember Barry Brucker and City Treasurer Eliot Finkel. Thirty-nine of the City's 60 Commissioners are Team BH graduates.

The 32 members of the 2010 Class are: Tony Berns, Oliver Bogner, Ashley Briskman, Karen Caskey, Andrew Cohen, Craig Davis, Brandon Douglas, Parastou Eliazadeh, Donna Flade, Jerald Friedman, Sherman Gardner, Roberta Haft, Pam Hendry, Janet Hoffman, Jean Huang, Barbara Johnson, Bernard Khalili, Robert Lyons, Michael Naim, Alma Ordaz, Barry Pressman, MD, Susan Rifkin, Alex Rotaru, Brenda Rubins, Joe Safier, Carol Savoie, Johanna Schmitz, David Seidel, Blair Schlecter, Cristofer Winter, Robert Wunderlich, Sam Yebri; and guest journalist Amanda Peabody, Assistant Editor for The Beverly Hills Courier

For additional information, or to apply for next year's program, please contact Gisele Grable at ggrable@beverlyhills.org.

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