

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 18, 2003**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
MARK MAZZAFERRO (707) 649-5462**

CITY KICKS OFF FIGHTING BACK CORPORATE MATCH PROGRAM

VALLEJO – The Vallejo City Council on Tuesday presented a \$5,000 check from Weston Solutions to Fighting Back Partnership, officially kicking off a \$90,000 Corporate Match Program in support of the drug and alcohol abuse prevention program.

Other making donations include PowerLight Corporation, the company which installed solar panels atop the roofs of City Hall and the JFK Library; and Mandarich Developments, developer of properties on the northeast side of Vallejo. Both are donating \$1,000. Weston Solutions is the developer selected for Area 1 on the northern end of Mare Island as well as the dredge ponds on the western side of the former naval base,

“I want to thank those businesses for their donations, and I hope others in the community follow suit,” City Manager David Martinez said.

Originally funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Fighting Back’s funding ended last year after 10 years of grant support. The nonprofit requested \$180,000 from the City for the 2003-2004 fiscal year but was only allocated \$90,000. As a result, Martinez offered to create a corporate challenge program to raise the difference, or \$90,000.

“Fighting Back provides a valuable service to our community,” Martinez told the council Tuesday night. “Working with the businesses in our community I think we’ll be able to make up the difference in funding.”

Kathy Hoffman, President of the Board of Directors for Fighting Back, was pleased with the effort and the donations.

“It’s gratifying to see these businesses step up,” Hoffman said. “I also want to thank the City and the City Manager for their support and efforts.”

Also at the meeting, Robert Litwin, owner of Mel’s Roast and the Empress Theater in downtown Vallejo, revealed plans to hold a fund-raiser at his theater in September to raise money for Fighting Back. Early plans call for a “Family Movie Night” to include a cartoon, a movie, hot dogs, popcorn, music, magicians and other youth and family activities.

“The idea is to get corporations to step up,” Litwin said. “We need to make sure we keep our nonprofits in operation, especially Fighting Back. With your support we can do this.”