



## **CITY OF DOWNEY – PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Progress Slowed on Downey's New Space Center***

#### ***Columbia Memorial Space Center Needs More Time to Get Up to Speed***

January 14, 2008 – The opening of the new Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey, California has been postponed. The Grand Opening had been planned for the end of January 2009. Delays with the completion of some of the exhibits and the installation of the Space Mission Simulator are the main reasons for the postponement. The additional time will allow the City to move into the building and to ensure operations are functioning as efficiently as possible prior to opening.

“We will hit the ground running when everything is ready to go,” said Downey Mayor Mario A. Guerra. “This will be a great addition to the City of Downey, and a real asset to our community and region. And we want to make sure everything is working smoothly before our grand opening.”

Named an official national memorial to the Space Shuttle Columbia by a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the Columbia Memorial Space Center will honor the crew of STS-107 lost on February 1, 2003 — Rick Husband, Willie McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark, and Ilan Ramon.

This new hands-on center for learning and career development is being built by the City of Downey at the site where the Apollo space capsules and the Space Shuttle Orbiters were designed and fabricated.

The new building was officially dedicated by the Downey City Council on November 15, 2008 with US Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard attending along with State Assemblymember Hector De La Torre and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe.

The exact date of the Grand Opening, which will be later this year, will be announced soon.

Jon Betthausen  
Executive Director

[jbetthausen@downeyca.org](mailto:jbetthausen@downeyca.org)  
(562) 922-8027