



# TOWN OF LOS GATOS

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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Downtown Fire Update

### **Town works with businesses and property owner to recover from devastating fire**

**Los Gatos, Ca.** Town officials are working closely with the property owner and businesses of 212, 214, 216 and 216½ North Santa Cruz Ave. to determine and implement actions to recover from yesterday's devastating fire. Immediate actions include expediting demolition of the blighted building to ensure public health and safety and facilitating merchant access prior to demolition.

With the concurrence of the property owner, Town staff removed an unstable portion of the façade yesterday. The building is being "red-tagged" today, which limits access to authorized personnel only. The Town will issue a minor permit today, which will enable the property owner's contractor to remove the remaining façade and debris in front of the building. This will allow the building to be boarded up and the sidewalk to be opened to pedestrians. It is expected that the removal will occur over the weekend. The next step will be the demolition of the entire building.

Demolition cannot occur until County Fire and the property owner's and merchants' insurance companies have completed their investigations. The Town will expedite the demolition permit once that occurs.

Town staff is working with the four affected merchants to facilitate access to their businesses today. The merchants will be allowed into the structure for a limited time, escorted by the property owner's contractor and a Town building inspector.

Town staff is also working with the affected merchants to provide assistance including connecting them with free insurance counseling through SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives) and helping to identify locations for storage and temporary operations. Other Los Gatos merchants have come forward to offer warehouse space and other assistance. The Town will work with the property owner to mitigate the appearance of the boarded up storefronts for the holidays.

Once the property owner is ready to plan the construction of a replacement building on the site, the Town will assist the property owner through the process.

cc: Los Gatos Weekly Times  
Los Gatos Daily News  
San Jose Mercury News  
Town Council

