



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 17, 2006**

*Mount Vernon, Washington – The City of Mount Vernon appreciates the landmark tulip smokestack located in the vicinity of the Carnation Building in downtown Mount Vernon, and its value to our community. We want to inform the public that the smokestack is on private property and is a privately owned structure. The City has no ownership or control over the maintenance of the smokestack.*

The City has received inquiries and requests from the public that we repaint the referenced smokestack. For that reason, we want to inform the public that the smokestack is located on private property, and that City of Mount Vernon has no ownership or control over its appearance.

The Mayor's Office has had numerous discussions with the smokestack owner's representative regarding their future plans for the smokestack. The owner's representative has advised the City that they have conducted an engineer's structural analysis of the smokestack, and that they are considering either partially or completely removing it.

Mayor Norris said "We are all aware of the smokestack, and wish to improve its appearance. We hope that the owner will realize its value to our community, and will soon be able to make a decision on the future use of the smokestack." Norris further said "If the structure needs to be partially or completely removed within the next few months, we can understand the hesitancy of the owner to spend substantial money on its improvement."

For further information, contact:

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