

**Mayor Steve Pougnet to Deliver “State of the City” Jan. 26;  
Community Invited to Demolition of Old Bank of America  
and Free Block Party Celebration Immediately Following**

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It's official!

The demolition permit has been approved and on **Thursday, Jan. 26** following Mayor Steve Pougnet's State of the City address, the entire community is invited to join the City of Palm Springs and Wessman Development for the kick off of the first phase in the demolition process of the old Bank of America building and former Hamburger Hamlet on Tahquitz and Palm Canyon Drive, the first step in the revitalization of the City's downtown core.

A champagne toast and free block party celebration sponsored by Wessman Development, featuring finger foods from LULU California Bistro, Kaiser Grille, Matchbox, Las Casuelas Terraza and dessert donated by local realtor Brady Sandahl is slated for about 2 p.m. in the parking lot behind the old Bank of America.

“This will be a historic day in the City of Palm Springs and I invite every resident, business person or anyone with an interest in the future of our city to join us as we kick off the long awaited and much anticipated revitalization of downtown Palm Springs,” said Mayor Steve Pougnet, who will lead more than 400 State of the City attendees from the Hilton Palm Springs on Tahquitz Canyon to the site of the initial demolition on the corner of Palm Canyon Drive. The entire demolition process is expected to take about a month.

“2011 has been a year of unprecedented successes for the City of Palm Springs and with the passage of Measure J and the imminent demolition of these two buildings, a tremendous citywide transformation is about to get under way,” according to Pougnet. “This is an exciting time to live in Palm Springs and I invite everyone to join us in the celebration.”

Tickets are still available for the annual State of the City, sponsored by the Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce. The event is slated for 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Palm Springs, 400. E. Tahquitz Canyon Way.

Tickets are \$45 per person. However, free seats will be available for residents wishing only to hear the Mayor's address which will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. Immediately following a question and answer session, the Mayor will invite the audience and the entire community to join the City and Wessman Development at Palm Canyon Drive and Tahquitz Canyon Way as demolition gets under way.

To reserve a spot for the luncheon, visit [www.pschamber.org](http://www.pschamber.org) or call (760) 325-1577.