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Dear devotees of Lord Jagannath Ji,

This is in reference to the meeting held on Sunday, 2/19/06, to discuss and finalize a puja format for Sunday puja at the Hindu Temple of Arizona.

As stated in the meeting, HTA board is dedicated to accommodate the religious needs of diverse Hindu communities in the best possible manner while maintaining the structure of the regularly scheduled pujas conducted at the HTA as per schedules established by the Puja Committee and the BOD of HTA.

It was explained to us in the Sunday meeting that the Puja of Shri Jagannath Ji can be completed in all respects including the rituals, puja, bhog, aarti and the prasad distribution in one hour. The board members present had also discussed other requirements for Shri Jagannath Ji's Puja and it was explained that

- a) Sunday is the best day for Shri Jagannath Ji's Puja.
- b) That the puja must be concluded before noon.

Board members present also discussed with attending devotees (Dr. Hara Misra & Manju Misra) the possibility of performing this puja on Sunday, in the temple, at different timings based on above inputs.

HTA board members have spent considerable time in discussing this issue subsequent to the meeting with representing devotees on Sunday. It is our sincere desire that the puja of Shri jagannath Ji as well as other deities in the temple must be performed following proper rituals and procedures for these pujas. In addition, we also believe that all pujas must be performed in a harmonious fashion without any disruptions to other activities going in the temple at that time. In view of the above the BOD of HTA has come to the following conclusion:

- 1) In order to ensure that the puja of Shri jagannath Ji is performed properly BOD will allow an **additional one hour time slot** for this puja on Sunday morning based on your inputs received during the Sunday meeting.

- 2) In order to accommodate the above desire and preserve a harmonious atmosphere in the temple that causes no disruptions to other activities in the temple, the BOD will change the timing of the regularly scheduled puja on every Sunday from 10 AM to 10:30 AM.
- 3) HTA board and puja committee has allocated a time slot from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM for conducting puja of Shri Jagannath Ji on every Sunday. Pooja will be performed by HTA priest. In absence of priest, devotees may perform the puja.
- 4) Since preparation of prasad in the kitchen for the congregation on Sundays starts around 8:30 to 9 AM the kitchen facilities for the preparation of prasad will not be available to the **devotees** performing Shri jagannath Ji's puja in the mornings on Sundays. The required prasad can be brought from home. However, if that is not possible the volunteers in the prasad committee will prepare the **Khichri** Prasad for Shri Jagannath Ji and provide the same to you.
- 5) If the dining hall is used for eating the prasad then HTA board expects that the **devotees** a) conclude the prasad serving and eating by 10:30 AM and b) will leave the dining area in a clean state so that there is no disruption to the activities starting at 10:30 AM.

In conclusion we would like to point out that in order to maintain harmonious and diverse environment, HTA BOD has made changes to their earlier proposed Sunday puja format and schedule. Temple puja will now start at 10:30AM, instead of 10AM, so that every Jagannath Ji's devotees need is accommodated in the best possible manner.

The purpose of this note is to inform all community members & devotees of the HTA board decision regarding the new schedule and format of various pujas on Sundays. **The new Sunday Puja format will be in effect from next Sunday 2/26/06**. We will also post the new schedule and format on the temple notice board. We will also announce the same after regular pujas during the week. We hope this will help maintain a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere in the temple for all devotees.

We will continue to strive for improvement in our temple programs and to strengthen our puja model to represent entire Hindu community. Everyone's cooperation is highly appreciated.

Signed by HTA President & Secretary: Feb. 24th, 2006

(HTA-Secretary)

Date

HTA-President

Date

CC: Office Copy