

# Press Release

## CONTRACTS PART OF COUNCIL'S SUCCESSION PLANNING GOAL

### **Council Action Ensures Smooth City Manager Transition**

Downey, CA, March 23, 2010: The Downey City Council approved several actions Tuesday night to ensure a smooth transition of the City's top management position. On a unanimous vote, the Council authorized a contract amendment with current City Manager Gerald Caton and a Memorandum of Agreement with Assistant City Manager Gilbert Livas which will assure an orderly change of City Managers on December 31, 2011.

Mayor Anne Bayer complimented the two City administrators and explained, "The council made a point to include succession planning as a top priority in last year's goals workshop. Succession planning is an important tool to reduce the risk of losing institutional knowledge, maintain business continuity, and keeping staff morale high through the managerial transfer of power."

Mr. Caton thanked the City Council for its action and stated, "It has been my pleasure to serve as Downey's City Manager for one-third of the City's history. Having a succession plan in place is very positive for our elected officials and employees. I know Gilbert will be an exceptional City Manager for Downey."

Mr. Livas, who will become the community's seventh City Manager, remarked "I am extremely honored to have the trust of all of the Members of the City Council. I look forward to working with Mr. Caton for the remainder of his tenure and to providing leadership to our outstanding City Management Team."

Prior to becoming Downey's Assistant City Manager, Mr. Livas served as the City's Community Development Director since 2007. Previously Mr. Livas worked in several management positions in both the private and public sectors, including being partner in a redevelopment consulting firm and working for the cities of Bell Gardens and Anaheim. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California Los Angeles and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Cal State University Long Beach.

Upon completion of his twenty-two year tenure as Downey City Manager in 2011, Mr. Caton will have served a total of 37 years in local government. One of Mr. Caton's major highlights of his time in Downey was the City's purchase of the 160 acre former NASA site from the Federal Government and subsequent conversion of the property into the Downey Landing Retail Center, Downey Studios, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center and Discovery Sports Complex.