TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

DATE: MARCH 17, 2008 CMR: 163:08

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF COUNCIL “TOP 4” PRIORITIES AND MILESTONES FOR 2008: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT; CLIMATE PROTECTION; LIBRARY PLAN/PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING; AND ECONOMIC HEALTH

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council adopt the 2008 Council Top 4 Priorities and milestones as identified on Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

On January 12, 2008, the City Council held its annual retreat and identified its Top 4 Priorities for the upcoming fiscal year (2008/09). The Council took an informal vote on these priorities during the meeting which resulted in unanimous support. Three of the priorities remain essentially the same as last year, with revised titles: Climate Protection, Economic Health and Library Plan/Public Safety Building. The Council also added a new priority, Civic Engagement, to this year’s list. Staff has developed the attached list of proposed milestones (Attachment A) to address the Council’s priorities.

DISCUSSION

Staff has had preliminary discussions with the group of citizens and civic organizations who brought the civic engagement priority forward to the Council at its January retreat, as well as soliciting the advice of Ed Everett, the former manager of Redwood City, who led his organization in a focused effort on civic engagement and community building. As a result of those discussions, staff would propose to the Council the following as premises for this priority:

- Civic engagement/community building is a multi-year commitment, involving skill building, increased understanding, the cultivation of mutual respect and trust, and a reorientation in working relationships between staff and the community
• Staff training and buy-in are pivotal to the success of the priority, since a simple customer/service-provider model deals with only a part of engaging the community in problem solving and imaginative planning.

• The new City Manager will need to lead the effort as soon as s/he is on board; this will be a strategic opportunity for that person to introduce him or herself to the Palo Alto community and staff; consequently, the first 6 months of the workplan lay the groundwork for programs that will enable the new city Manager to respond to this City Council priority and move it effectively forward.

**RESOURCE IMPACT**

The proposed milestones for the Council Top 4 Priorities, if approved by Council, will be included in the proposed FY 2008-09 Budget.

**ATTACHMENTS**

The Proposed Top 4 Workplan FY 2008-09

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