Resolution

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALO ALTO
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO FRANK BENEST ON HIS RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Frank Benest joined Palo Alto as City Manager on April 10, 2000, and has stimulated innovation in City governance and finance with initiatives such as Bureaucracy Busters, Strengthening the Bottom Line, Gallup Q12 Study, Innovation Fund, and Sustainability Fund; and

WHEREAS, Frank Benest is widely recognized for his leadership in employee development and succession planning through creation of the City Leadership Forums, Management Talent Exchange Program, Management Fellows, summer internships, job shadowing and other creative forums for developing the next generation of leaders in local government and public service; and

WHEREAS, Frank Benest’s passion for affordable housing led to the opening of the Opportunity Center, relocation of the Alma Substation, and future market- and below-market-rate housing in Stanford Research Park to provide housing for families, single adults, and seniors; and

WHEREAS, Frank Benest has actively promoted PaloAltoGreen, the country’s top renewable energy program and many award-winning environmental and sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, Frank Benest eliminated a $20 million structural deficit and reduced General Fund staffing by 10 percent yet maintained City services during the dot-com bust, added an additional $6 million to the Infrastructure Master Plan annually, recommended $20 million yearly on utility infrastructure, and submitted balanced budgets in each of his eight years; and

WHEREAS, through Frank Benest’s initiative, the City’s economic base was expanded by retaining auto dealers, developing the “Destination Palo Alto” program, promoting the Tour of California, and bringing forward the Stanford Shopping Center expansion project; and

WHEREAS, Frank Benest’s drive and spirit led to enhancements and renovations of City parks, facilities and playgrounds and the creation of Heritage Park and the Stanford/Palo Alto Community Playing Fields on the Mayfield site used by 50,000 people annually; and

WHEREAS, Frank Benest has added a personal touch through his handwritten notes of thanks, recognition and congratulations for work successes, and expressions of sympathy during difficult personal times;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Palo Alto, together with the citizens of this community, hereby gratefully records and extends its sincere appreciation to Frank Benest for his public service and leadership, along with best wishes for a fulfilling “next phase” of life in retirement.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: August 4, 2008

AYES: Barton, Burt, Drekmeier, Espinosa, Klein, Kishimoto, Morton, Schmid, Yeh

NOES:

ABSENCIONS:

ABSENT:
ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

APPROVED:

Mayor

City Manager