



City of Milpitas

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Milpitas Planning Director Ned Thomas Appointed Acting City Manager

Milpitas, CA – June 26, 2023 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On June 20, 2023 the Milpitas City Council voted to appoint Ned P. Thomas, AICP, as Acting City Manager. This action takes effect Monday June 26, 2023, and will continue on an interim or temporary basis until Council takes subsequent action. The City Council, on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, formed a Sub-committee to oversee the selection of a new permanent City Manager. The Sub-committee is actively working to launch a competitive nationwide search.

“The City Council is pleased to appoint Ned Thomas as Acting City Manager,” said Mayor Carmen Montano. “His deep experience, strong leadership, and dedication to the City will serve us well. I am confident that Ned will do an excellent job of serving the Milpitas community and carrying out the Council’s vision for the City.”

Thomas has served as Planning Director for the City of Milpitas since August 2018. In this capacity, he has directed work on a broad range of matters related to land use planning, zoning code enforcement, urban design, economic development, and environmental review. Recent work includes updates to the Milpitas General Plan and Transit Area Specific Plan as well as ongoing updates to the Midtown Specific Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Under his direction, the Planning Department has also received more than \$3.5 million in state and local grants to fund long-range planning initiatives, establish a local on-demand transit service, and create innovative online tools to help Milpitas residents navigate the development review process or locate a new business in Milpitas.

Thomas brings more than twenty-five years of experience in local government and public administration to the role of Interim City Manager. Prior to joining the City of Milpitas, Thomas served as a Division Manager and Supervising Planner in the Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement at the City of San Jose. In this capacity, he supervised a wide range of activities related to development review and environmental compliance. Prior to joining the City of San Jose, Thomas served as Community Development Director for the Town of Windsor in Sonoma County, where he directed work on the Windsor 2040 General Plan Update and oversaw development of major new residential and mixed-use projects in the historic downtown area.

"I am deeply humbled and grateful for the confidence and trust placed in me by the City Council," said Thomas. "I look forward to continuing my service in the community and working closely with Mayor Montano, members of the City Council, executive team, and dedicated City staff in this new capacity." Thomas previously served in various professional planning roles in the Las Vegas area, including professional work as a Planner and Urban Designer for the City of North Las Vegas and Principal Planner for the City of Henderson. In addition to work as a planning consultant in the private sector, he also served as an appointed member of the North Las Vegas Planning Commission and as a founding member of Impact NV, a regional public-private non-profit organization focused on promoting environmental sustainability in southern Nevada.

Thomas is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and has been a featured speaker and panelist at various local, state, and national conferences on topics related to urban planning and design, transit-oriented development, regional planning, and sustainability. He holds a master's degree in Urban Planning from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in geography from Brigham Young University. He also studied urban and regional planning as a Fulbright Scholar at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan. He and his wife, Cherlynn, are the parents of four children.

Thomas will serve in the acting role until Council takes further action, such as the selection of a permanent City Manager. A nationwide recruitment for Milpitas' next City Manager is currently underway. An executive search of this caliber can take three to four months to complete. This process includes actively sourcing candidates, screening applicants, and several rounds of intensive interviews, before a final selection is made by the full Council.

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About the City of Milpitas

Located at the southern end of San Francisco Bay, Milpitas is a progressive community that is an integral part of Silicon Valley. A full-service city with water utility, sewer utility, police and fire services, Milpitas is a flourishing community with a very diverse and inclusive resident population of over 80,000. Often referred to as the Crossroads of Silicon Valley, the City is situated between major thoroughfares in the Bay Area and considered a highly desirable location for world-class technology companies seeking to build a central base of operations. With the addition of the new Milpitas Transit Center offering BART, light rail, and bus service, and multiple new mixed-use development projects, along with a host of new City Plans and Programs in support of an inspiring and sustainable future, the City is at the forefront of building the next generation economy. For more information, visit: www.milpitas.gov