



City of Milpitas

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Milpitas City Council Unanimously Appoints Ned Thomas as Next City Manager

Milpitas, CA – October 5, 2023 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Milpitas City Council unanimously voted to appoint Ned Thomas as the next City Manager of Milpitas at Tuesday evening's City Council meeting.

Thomas was selected to serve as Acting City Manager in June 2023. He previously served as Planning Director since August 2018 and directed work on a broad range of matters related to land use planning, zoning code enforcement, urban design, 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 been awarded 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 promote ADUs, assist Milpitas residents navigate the development review process, or locate a new business in Milpitas.

"During his time as Acting City Manager, Thomas demonstrated his extraordinary ability to lead during times of transition. Milpitas has numerous projects underway, and Thomas is the right person to ensure that the work is completed successfully," stated Milpitas Mayor Carmen Montano.

"After conducting a thorough national search and an extensive interview process, we are pleased to welcome Ned to his new role as City Manager. His experience, background, and leadership will serve the residents and employees of Milpitas very well," said Vice Mayor Evelyn Chua.

Councilmember Anthony Phan shared, "I am confident that Ned will help drive change in our organization and lead our mission to make Milpitas a best-in-class City."

According to Councilmember Hon Lien, "We are very excited that Ned has accepted the position of City Manager. Ned's experience and success working in communities similar to Milpitas will benefit our City significantly."

"Collaboration is at the heart of our City's progress. I look forward to having Ned serve as a key facilitator in bringing diverse stakeholders together to address the challenges we face and capitalize on the

opportunities that lie ahead,” said Councilmember Garry Barbadillo.

“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 Milpitas community and working closely with Mayor Montano, members of the City Council, executive team, and dedicated City staff.”

Thomas brings more than twenty-five years of experience in local government and public administration to the role of 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 downtown area.

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, and speaks fluent Japanese. He and his wife, Cherlynn, are the parents of four children.

Thomas’ official start date is October 3, 2023.

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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