

Lafayette Mayor Tatzin's Statement on the
Resignation of City Manager Steven Falk
City Council Meeting
September 24, 2018

At this evening's City Council meeting Steve Falk announced his resignation as City Manager after serving Lafayette for 28 years. His resignation letter will be made public separately. I have had the privilege to know Steve for his entire tenure with Lafayette and recognize that his contributions have made the City far better than it was before he joined. Just think about how Lafayette has improved during his tenure. There are tangible projects to which Steve made immense contributions. When Steve arrived, our roads and drains needed extensive repairs and we are now close to finishing repairing or rebuilding all the failed infrastructure.

- We built the Veterans Memorial Building.
- He helped create the concept for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and participated in raising the necessary public and private funds.
- He helped guide improvement of parks and recreation facilities at the Community Park, Buckeye Fields, and the Jennifer Russell Building at the Community Center.
- He maintained fiscal discipline and the City has a reserve that equals 60% of our General Fund and we can contemplate achieving a 100% reserve.
- He created an environment in which we could attract police chiefs who have created a true community-police partnership.

There are things Steve does that you do not see but are also important. He knows that one of his most important decisions is who gets hired and he hires exceptional staff and then develops a team spirit that allows a small staff to do a lot and want to stay in Lafayette even when they could easily get jobs elsewhere. He has been the City's best communicator and introduced the Lafayette Vistas, Friday message, and Lafayette Listens. He is the creator of our best-known slogans, i.e., Love Lafayette and, Green Hills, Great Schools. He brings an infectious enthusiasm for the community to everything he does. He creates alliances to advance shared interests with organizations like the schools and the Chamber of Commerce. He encourages staff to do new things if they will benefit Lafayette residents

Finally, Steve brings a great personality to our community. He is open and embraces transparency for himself and all city operations. He acts with impeccable integrity. He combines great analytical skills, personal sensitivity to the plight of the less fortunate, and creativity. Steve is a firm believer in teamwork. I recall one of his sayings as we successfully raised the funds for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. "It is amazing what we can accomplish when we don't worry about who gets the credit." For many of us, Steve is also a friend and we wish him well as he pursues his next challenges. Please take time to send Steve (Sfalk@lovelafayette.org) a thank you note for what he has done for Lafayette.

There is going to be a thank you party for Steve and retiring elected officials on November 27 at the Veterans Memorial Building and the public will be invited. More details will be forthcoming, and I hope you can attend.