



Mayor and City Council

Honoring and celebrating the people who make El Cajon the Valley of Opportunity

October 24, 2013

It has been my privilege for the past 23 years to serve the citizens of El Cajon as your elected representative, including the last 15 years as your Mayor. The citizens of El Cajon have demonstrated their faith in me by re-electing me six different times. Over two years ago, I announced that I would not be seeking re-election in 2014 and, therefore, had planned on retiring as Mayor at the end of next year. The reason for my decision not to continue as your Mayor was primarily due to continued health problems, beginning with my suffering a minor stroke in 2010. More recently, I have been challenged by cancer and a dislocated shoulder, along with other health related problems. Unfortunately, at times, this has caused me some difficulties in clearly communicating my thoughts, including during the recent interviews that have caused understandable concern within our community and for which I have already apologized.

After discussing with my family and close friends, I have made the decision to resign my position as Mayor of El Cajon one year early to avoid any further concerns by our citizens and to allow our City Council and community to move forward in their work to make this City the finest place it can be. I deeply love our town and have given a major portion of my adult life to its wellbeing and, so, this is a bittersweet moment for me. I will miss being your Mayor, but I realize it is now time to better focus my energies on my health and my family.

We have accomplished much together over the past 23 years and I am especially proud of our exciting revitalized downtown, the Council's support for strong economic development, the City's continuous balanced budgets and conservative fiscal policies, even throughout the recent difficult recession. I am also proud that our Council recently voted to bring back to life the El Cajon Friendship Festival, now renamed and reinvented as America On Main Street, which will be a citywide celebration in June of our community's cultural diversity and strength.

I wish to thank all of my supporters over the years, as well as all of the wonderful citizens of El Cajon who have made this such a great community. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Mark Lewis, Mayor