



**Agenda Item A.3**  
**CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**Meeting Date: November 18, 2008**

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**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Dan Singer, City Manager

**CONTACT:** Steve Chase, Director of Planning and Environmental Services

**SUBJECT:** Resignation of Planning Commissioner Ken Knight

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Accept the resignation of Planning Commissioner Kenneth A. Knight.

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 5, 2008, Planning Commissioner Ken Knight submitted a letter of resignation. A copy of the letter is attached.

**DISCUSSION:**

Goleta Municipal Code section 2-25.5 specifies the term of office for a Planning Commissioner expires "at the first regular meeting of the first February following the expiration of the current term of office of the City Council member who appointed the Commission member." Section 2-25.5 specifies the methods of terminating the office prior to the expiration. It provides that a member of the Commission is removed by absence from three consecutive regular meetings or "by a vote approved by at least three of the members of the City Council."

The Municipal Code does not currently expressly provide for unilateral resignation by a Commission member. As such, it is appropriate for the Council to affirmatively accept the resignation of Commissioner Knight.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Council may choose whether or not to accept the resignation of Commissioner Knight. Choosing not to accept the resignation would have no direct effect. The City lacks any meaningful ability to compel a Commissioner to perform their duties. However, choosing not to accept the resignation of Commissioner Knight would require

the removal from the Council Agenda of Discussion Action Item B, Reconsideration of Professional Services Agreement to Develop Urban Forest Master Plan.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

There are no relevant fiscal impacts.

Submitted By:

Reviewed By:

Approved By:    Approved By:

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Steve Chase  
Planning and Environmental  
Services Director

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Michelle A. Greene  
Administrative Services  
Director

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Daniel Singer,  
City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1.     November 5, 2008 letter of resignation, Kenneth A. Knight

## Kenneth A. Knight

69 Calaveras Avenue Goleta, CA 93117

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November 5, 2008

The Honorable Michael T. Bennett  
Mayor, City of Goleta  
130 Cremona, Suite B  
Goleta CA 93117

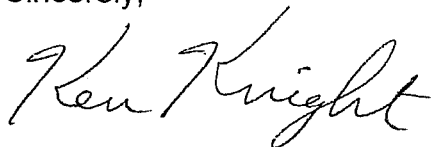
Dear Mayor Bennett,

Please accept my resignation from the City of Goleta Planning Commission effective immediately. I appreciate the support of Councilmember Jean Blois in appointing me to this position. I am proud to have been a member and Chair of the first Planning Commission of the City of Goleta.

I chose to resign at this time to be more effective in my public service responsibilities to the citizens of Goleta Valley. An issue has arisen that raises questions as to whether I can serve without a conflict of interest as both a Planning Commissioner and as Executive Director of the non profit community service organization Goleta Valley Beautiful. Goleta Valley Beautiful has a professional services contract with the City, and since a Planning Commissioner is considered an employee of the City, some have implied that a potential conflict of interest could occur. I do not wish to create distractions in either my role as a Planning Commissioner or as a Goleta Valley Beautiful employee. Therefore, I am choosing to focus my attention on my professional role as Goleta Valley Beautiful Executive Director.

I am pleased to see that the Goleta City Council will review providing conceptual review responsibilities to the Planning Commission. I have strongly supported this direction and I believe this action will result in a better process for the applicant and a better project for the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Knight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Knight