



## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

February 11, 2016

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Fellow Employees:

Today, I arrived early to our magnificent City Hall, just as I have done for nearly seven and a half years as your City Manager. Every morning begins a new day for our City and as I walked up the steps to our historic City Hall with its neatly groomed landscaping, I was reminded yet again what a great city Pasadena is every day of the year.

But today is bittersweet for me, as I recognize that my tenure as your City Manager has come to a close. Though I am excited about the new chapter in my professional journey, I am mindful that it is the people who make Pasadena great and I am touched by how you have made this job so meaningful to me; I will miss you all.

Since I arrived in 2008, we have worked together to accomplish our goals and overcome the many challenges we have faced with resolve, dignity, and perseverance. Our city government and our community could not be shaken by events or issues, and, perhaps, I am most proud that through it all we continued Pasadena's tradition of excellence and a dedication to continuous improvement so Pasadena could be an even greater place to live, work, and enjoy.

Our accomplishments have been many: implementing sound financial systems and strong fiscal management; improving our programs and services; upgrading our public facilities and infrastructure, even during the "Great Recession" when many other cities were cutting back; strengthening our commitment to customer service and public access to government; updating the General Plan and Mobility Element; creating an economic development strategic plan; and advancing our technology into the next generation.

We also faced our challenges along the way, such as America's economic downturn; the devastating windstorm of 2011; unfunded public employee pension obligations; the embezzlement from the Underground Utility Fund; and tragic officer-involved shootings. In each case, I believe the City reacted with the best interest of our community in mind and I also believe we have learned from each challenge.

I am thankful for the steady, dedicated leadership of our elected officials, the professionalism of our employees, and the positive engagement of our residents. As a result, Pasadena is admired across the country. Our employees come to work every day with a commitment to public service and professionalism. Our City Council has been willing to lead and make the right decisions for our community, even when those decisions may not have been popular with everyone. Our community has remained strong and engaged to ensure Pasadena preserves its unique history and character while planning for the future.

*City Hall*

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There is still more work to be done in Pasadena and I regret that I will not be alongside of you as new challenges come your way. However, I step away highly confident in the leadership of the Mayor, City Council, Interim City Manager Steve Mermell, and the Executive Leadership Team. Pasadena's future is bright.

It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to serve this great city and to work with amazing people. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with you and thank you for what you have brought to the City and to my life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Beck', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael J. Beck  
City Manager