



PRESS RELEASE

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CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

PLEASANTON, Calif. — After 31 years of public service, Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho has announced his retirement effective November 30, 2021.

Fialho has worked for the City of Pleasanton for 25 years, 17 of which were at the helm as city manager after being appointed as the then youngest municipal executive in California. In this capacity, Fialho provides executive leadership for the full-service municipal organization that employs approximately 500 people and has an annual operating budget of nearly \$200 million with an additional \$112 million allocated for capital improvement projects. Fialho is responsible for the delivery of all City functions, such as finance, human resources, community and economic development, public works, utility operations, library, recreation, and public safety.

Fiscal sustainability has been a guiding principle of Fialho's management, which proved critical in successfully steering the city through the Great Recession and more recently in leading the city's COVID response and recovery. Another hallmark of Fialho's career has been building strategic partnerships such as with Pleasanton Unified School District and most recently with Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare and the neighboring cities of Dublin and Livermore to bring regional testing and vaccination centers to the Alameda County Fairgrounds during the pandemic. "Nelson has an exceptional ability to bring people together to proactively address the issues at hand. The partnership that we developed during the pandemic was instrumental in safely guiding our community and has set the stage for even greater outcomes as we collaborate to bring world class medical service to the region," noted Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare President & CEO Rick Shumway.

During his tenure in Pleasanton Fialho has worked for five mayors and 19 councilmembers, delivering significant enhancements for the community including implementing the formation of the Livermore-

Pleasanton Fire Department; acquiring the Alameda County branch library and upgrading it to serve as the City's library; increasing the City's all-funds operating reserves to \$116 million, designing financial enhancements to the capital improvement program, and implementing a pension obligation strategy to ensure the City's ability to sustain services into the future; and managing a 20-year General Plan update and numerous specific plans, and overseeing a comprehensive community engagement process that navigated the City successfully through the challenges of a housing cap lawsuit and housing element certifications. "As a councilmember I enjoyed working with Nelson and was delighted to support his promotion to city manager. Now, as a retired 'regular resident' I enjoy working with the quality management team he's built to assist the community in planning for the future. Nelson's years of public service leave us a great many accomplishments and initiatives to build upon," said former Councilmember Becky Dennis.

Fialho's other accomplishments as city manager include an extensive list of community amenities and service improvements including completing the award-winning Callippe Preserve Golf Course, Firehouse Arts Center, Bernal Community Park and Patelco Sports Complex, and Alviso Adobe Community Park and Castleridge Staging Area and trail; renovating the Veterans Memorial Building and partnering with local veterans groups to construct the Veterans Memorial at the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery; and the design and construction of Kottinger Place senior affordable housing. As well, he oversaw the steady growth of Pleasanton's business community: updating the Downtown Specific Plan to further cultivate vitality while preserving the downtown's character; partnering with Hacienda to sustain the business park's competitive advantages; and attracting world-class companies such as 10X Genomics, and Workday, which funded the construction of the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station plaza and police service center as part of its headquarters campus in north Pleasanton.

"It has been an honor to serve the Pleasanton community, and I could not have asked for a more rewarding public service career. The highlight has been working alongside the smart and talented people who support the mission of this extraordinary city, and I am immeasurably grateful to all those who supported me including our employees and city councils past and present," Fialho stated.

Regarding next steps to finding a replacement, the city council will determine the process, which typically includes selecting an executive recruiter to work with the council on a position profile and recruitment strategy, identifying key attributes and characteristics of an ideal candidate, including education, experience, and demonstrated skills and abilities.

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