



Contact: Shannon DeLong
City Manager's Office
Phone: 562-904-7284
Fax: 562-923-6388
citymanager@downeyca.org

City of Downey
11111 Brookshire Avenue
Downey, CA 90241
www.downeyca.org

PRESS RELEASE

City Pleased to Announce End of Litigation with Downey Firemen's Association

Downey, CA, February 23, 2017:

After more than three years of litigation, the Downey City Council has approved a settlement with the Downey Firemen's Association (DFA) in a good faith effort to build a cooperative relationship with the DFA.

"I am pleased that the litigation was settled to the mutual agreement of all parties. We certainly were willing to move forward in the courts to prove our case. However, we strongly believe that it is more beneficial for the community to spend taxpayer time and money on service rather than on litigation, and the costs and time associated with litigation. We look forward to getting back to cooperatively providing for the residents and businesses of Downey," stated Mayor Fernando Vasquez.

"Ending this litigation has been a goal of mine since being elected to Council, and I am looking forward to closing this chapter and moving on with our fire department in service to Downey residents," said Mayor Pro Tem Sean Ashton.

"It's unfortunate that this exorbitant amount of money had to be paid as a result of the Downey Firemen's Association suing the city. However, I believe it's in the best interest of our residents to once and for all end their lawsuit and focus on a productive partnership with our fire department going forward to best serve our residents," said Council Member Alex Saab.

Stated Council Member Blanca Pacheco, "Having grown up in Downey, as one of those kids who looked up to our firefighter heroes, I believe that the DFA's and the City's mutual willingness to end litigation shows that both parties are looking forward to a true collaboration in our community."

"As a longtime resident and supporter of our public safety professionals, I hope that the City's decision to take the high road instead of spending more time and money on this litigation would help the DFA and the City to move forward together," added Council Member Rick Rodriguez.

Details of the settlement were announced by the City Attorney on February 14, 2017.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE