

August 28, 2008

Dear Mayor Blum, members of the City Council and the Outreach Committee:

To paraphrase Mark Twain's famous quip: "**The rumors of my ~~death~~ resignation have been greatly exaggerated**". In fact the Independent's reporting today of my resignation from the Outreach Committee today was premature. It was, however, partially accurate. I am indeed resigning from my appointment to the City's Outreach Committee. However, this action is not solely related to my recent disappointment on the development of the recent public opinion survey.

The *actual* reason for my resignation is that believe the work of the Outreach Committee has been completed and that , while not done explicitly, the directing of the public process has been transferred to the Planning Commission and its Plan Santa Barbara sub-committee. As most of you know, I have supported that change publicly before the Commission. Given that my trust in the Commission to direct the process from here, I believe my time can be better spent in supporting Plan Santa Barbara in other more productive ways.

As to my disappointments, I have publicly expressed in the past that after Phase One the need for the Outreach Committee was questionable. In my opinion, the meetings of the Committee have only been one way, staff informing the Committee of what was coming up and no appreciable "input" or change in process resulting from the comments of the Committee. The last meeting was, for me, a very serious disappointment. The staff presented a copy of a large draft survey document for the Committee to review, but the Committee was instructed that they had to give their input at that meeting. We were informed we could not have additional time to review it and we could not take a copy for further review. I had serious questions and reservations about the survey and how inappropriate it was to ask us to handle such an important matter in this way. I voiced my strong objection at that time and requested more time to review the instrument.

I did not make it to the end of that meeting in that I had a conflict with the fare increase hearing at MTD. Later I found out the survey had been completed the previous weekend only when being interviewed by the Independent.

You all know that I strongly support the Plan Santa Barbara process and that I will continue to be personally involved to the greatest degree. I trust in the Planning Commission and City Council to continue to demand maximum public participation and provide the *strong vision and leadership* this process deserves.

I appreciate the opportunity you gave me to serve on the Outreach Committee.

Sincerely,



Dave Davis