

Letter of Reference for David Frasher

I have had the honor of being elected to serve on Oregon City Commission for a total of four four-year terms, the last as Mayor with my term completed at the end of 2014. Over those sixteen years I have worked with five city managers. When the City Manager position became open nearly six years ago, David was one of several applicants. At that time, there was a divided City Commission. He was one of the top two choices of every member of the Commission, and when the vote was taken to make him City Manager, the vote was unanimous.

David always sought to find a common ground among the Commission members and, during my tenure as Mayor, he was admired by all Commission members as well as his executive staff for creating a dialogue among us all, enabling us to establish attainable goals. I believe that he was a more effective staff team leader than any of his predecessors that I worked with.

He established consistent fees among the various utilities using the City's right-of-way. When legally challenged by our county's board of Commissioners for charging fees for utilities they owned and operated within our right-of-way, David brought together a legal team that successfully argued the case in the city's favor.

Within my first two months serving as Mayor, the second largest private employer in Oregon City, Blue Heron Paper Mill, filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection. The Mill's closure resulted in hundreds of employees losing their jobs, health insurance, and pensions and turned a twenty-three acre site that was the City's major employment center for 180 years into a brown field almost overnight. David was able to develop a formal partnership with the state, the county, and the Metro Regional Government of the greater Portland area. A vision document and a master plan were developed with public input for that site; and based on that plan, David was able to secure \$20 million for the planning of public access to Willamette Falls, which is the second largest water fall by flow volume in North America, and which directly or indirectly produced electricity for that site. It is estimated that well over one-hundred thousand visitors per year will visit the falls once the public access is in place, a level of tourism that will trigger the redevelopment of the site and the area around it.

In addition, David created the position of economic development manager and hired a professional who has been able to coordinate efforts of private business owners, the Oregon City Urban Renewal District's Commission, and the state to continue the successful revitalization of Main Street and to spur development of industrially and mixed-use-zoned lands in the City.

Under his leadership, the City procured land for a future City Hall, Police Station, and Municipal Court. The City also passed a bond for an expansion of our library that will triple the current floor space. The site choice and design was based on a major public-input process involving library users from inside and outside the City's boundaries, and the construction began within a year of the bond's passage.

David's door was always open to the public, and he listened to people. He assembled an outstanding team of staff, was an extremely capable leader, and helped build Oregon City build consensus during a difficult period. For these reasons and others, I highly recommend David to any community seeking an exceptionally talented City Manager.



Doug Neeley.

Former Commissioner and Mayor of Oregon City, Oregon