



CITY OF
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES

CITY MANAGER'S CORNER

January 4, 2017

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Every City in California is required by state law to adopt a General Plan. But what is a General Plan? It is in essence a vision document. It consists of guiding principles to direct decisions on various issues (known in General Plan terms as "Elements") such as housing, development, traffic and public safety among others. The City of Rolling Hills Estates last undertook review and adoption of the General Plan in the early 1990's and has updated certain portions of it periodically since then. It is now time once again for the community as a whole to conduct a thorough review of this important document and update it as needed.

What will be involved in this process? First, the City Council must retain consultant assistance. There are many outstanding firms that specialize in General Plan analysis and creation. At this time, the City Council has issued a Request for Proposals to a number of well-known firms to present their qualifications and strategies for pursuing this project. Proposals are due in early 2017 and will be reviewed by staff and the Council to determine the most qualified firm with which to enter a contract for services.

Chief among the Council's priorities is public participation. Consideration of the Elements to include in a General Plan is not just an academic exercise. It is a community-wide effort to fully understand the priorities of residents and develop strategies on how best to meet the interests identified as most important. Therefore, your participation in the process is critical.

Upon retention of a consultant, we expect there to be created a General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) to help guide the community through the process. Leading members of the community will be asked to review the current General Plan, consider alternatives and identify needed updates. Several community meetings will be necessary over the course of the project and residents will be encouraged to provide input throughout the process.

How long should this process take? It depends on the ability of the community to focus and reach consensus. Some General Plan updates can take as little time as eighteen months. Some can take as long as five years. But the length of time it takes to complete the process is less important than the result, as the General Plan that is ultimately adopted will be an important component of the future of the community for a generation.

So, keep your eyes open for announcements on how you can be involved in this important project and help shape the future of Rolling Hills Estates.