



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2009

Contact: Tara Finnigan
Public Information Manager
949-644-3035

City Manager Homer Bludau Announces Retirement Date

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. -- Newport Beach City Manager Homer Bludau has made his retirement date official. After 10 years in the city's top management spot, Bludau announced to the City Council and staff this week that he will retire on September 1.

"Homer has been very open with the City Council about his intention to retire in 2009 and we were able to convince him to stay a few months longer than he had intended in order to help us with the budget and some future planning," explained Mayor Ed Selich. "He was willing to do that and now it's our turn to be willing to let him go on and enjoy the next phase of his life. Homer is an outstanding leader, a trusted executive and a valuable asset to this organization. He will be missed."

Bludau's tenure in Newport Beach is marked by a host of accomplishments and milestones that will have a lasting impact on the city. These include the negotiation of the John Wayne Airport Settlement Agreement, the annexation of Newport Coast and areas of Santa Ana Heights, the development of Bonita Canyon Sports Park, and the approval of a new City Hall and Park. He considers his most significant achievement as the diligent and conservative financial planning efforts that have enabled Newport Beach to save about \$66 million in additional General Fund reserves and have kept the city on steady ground.

"The City Council, finance director and I share the same vision when it comes to the city's finances and that involves having the fiscal discipline to live within your means," Bludau explained. "We estimate revenues conservatively, budget expenditures more conservatively, and set aside savings each year."

After earning two master's degrees from the University of Arizona, Bludau served as a missile crew commander in the United States Air Force for five years. He then began a 32-year career in municipal government.

Bludau worked for the city of Yuma, AZ for three years and in March 1980, he earned his first city manager position with the city of Avenal. He went on to serve as city manager for the cities of Rialto and Coronado before joining Newport Beach in May 1999.

“The past decade of living and working in Newport Beach has been the highlight of my career,” Bludau said. “During that time, I have had the privilege to work for 18 City Council members and with an outstanding team of city employees. Though I will be retiring from the organization, my wife and I intend to remain city residents and continue to enjoy the community and all that makes Newport Beach an exceptional place to be.”

Bludau has served as president of both the San Diego and Orange County City Manager’s Associations. In Newport Beach, he played an integral role in forming the 1-1 Marines Committee, twice served as co-chair for the Relay for Life, is a Commodore with the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Environmental Nature Center’s board of directors. He is also president of the Coastline Community College Foundation board.

Bludau has agreed to stay past September 1 if a new city manager has not been hired by that time.