

Clear vision for Council

Optometrist who is a watchdog on city policy joins growing field to run in special election for City Council seat.

By Mark R. Madler
The Leader

DOWNTOWN BURBANK — City Council critic David Gordon announced Tuesday that he will make a bid for the seat left vacant by the resignation of Stacey Murphy.

Gordon, an optometrist who is among the regular speakers at the weekly council meetings, considers himself a candidate who can restore public trust and confidence in city leaders.

His campaign will reach out to voters who want a change, Gordon said.

"We need new people on the council with new ideas and fresh approaches who will uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct, Gordon said.

Murphy stepped down Aug. 30 after being charged with one felony count of cocaine possession and one misdemeanor count of child endangerment.

Murphy has pleaded not guilty to the charges and is scheduled to appear in Pasadena Superior Court on Sept. 28, and then stepped down so that her legal troubles would not distract the council from city business.

The council is expected to order the special election at its Sept. 27 meeting.

The City Clerk's office has 120 days from that date to have the election.

A Burbank resident since 1983, Gordon served on the Planning Board — including one year as chairman — from 1995 to 1999, as chairman of the Magnolia Park Citizen's Advisory Committee for three years and for two years on the Administrative Services Committee of the League of



Dr. David Gordon, City Council candidate.

TAMMY ABBOT
The Leader

California Cities.

Gordon's strong ties to the city will be helpful in the election said Carolyn Berlin, who served with Gordon on the Planning Board.

"Through his business he comes in contact with the community on a day-to-day basis," Berlin said. "And he has a good handle on the issues."

Although he is still finalizing the platform he will run on, Gordon identified traffic congestion, over development, threats to private property rights and potential expansion at the Bob Hope Airport as among the issues he will raise.

"I am very concerned with the current trend to change contractual agreements the city has with large developers," Gordon said. "Those changes alter the impacts those developments have on the community without any additional environmental review being done."

With only two weeks having passed since Murphy's resignation, the field of potential replacements is growing.

Vahe Hovanessian, a lawyer who ran for a council seat in 2003 and 2005; and Bill Wiggins, a former councilman and mayor who is currently serving as a commissioner for the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority have also announced they will take part in the special election.

The election would mark Gordon's first foray into running for public office.

His experience on the Planning Board would be helpful to serving on the council, Gordon said.

"It allowed me a better understanding of how projects are reviewed and conditioned," Gordon said. "And it allowed a better understanding of how to assess the impacts of development on the community."

When on the Planning Board, Gordon always did his background research and homework on proposed projects that came before it, Berlin said.

"He was not a rubber stamp and he listens to the public," Berlin said.

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