

## **REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**DATE: APRIL 10, 2013**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER**

**BY: AMY BRINK, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF CITY HISTORIAN**

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Back in 1983, the Agoura Hills City Council approved and directed the Cultural Affairs Committee to create and maintain a historical record of the City. The City Historian had many responsibilities that included, but were not limited to: “clipping newspapers and placing the articles in books, by subject, in order to keep a history of the city.” As a result, Diane Venable was named the first City Historian in September 1983. Over the years, several other community members were appointed and served as City Historians. They were: Marilyn Draper Soltan (1988), Frieda Kabbash (1989), Sharon S. McGee (1991), and Dolores Crowley (1999). These individuals did a remarkable job of compiling, organizing, and preserving the City of Agoura Hills and its rich history!

In the archives, there is a compilation of the City’s early history that is bound in two volumes. These volumes, along with other historical documents, newspapers clippings, media releases, and photographs were declared by the City Council in 1985 as “forever a permanent record for our City.” This was the beginning of the City’s historical archives. Annual “History Books” were presented to Council for many years, until 1999. At that time, newspaper clippings continued to be gathered and assembled into binders, although official books were not printed.

More recently, the Cultural Arts Council has taken an active role in the City and its culture, specifically its history. There have been unique displays created at City venues, historical book discussions with local authors, city-wide historical item collections, photographing/documenting historical locations and monuments in town, interviewing older residents who have lived here for many, many years, and compiling this information in a new Agoura Hills historical book. Most of these efforts were spearheaded by one person, Cim Castellon, Agoura Hills Cultural Arts Council Member. The City Historian is a volunteer position; however the City paid for the supplies (i.e., binders, pocket protectors, inserts, etc.). There was also a time the books were annually printed and for sale to the public. Staff would suggest dedicating a small amount of funds towards the historical effort. Although, with today’s technology, much of the history may be preserved online which would not require supplies.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council approve the appointment of Cim Castellon, Cultural Arts Council Member, as the City Historian.