

From: [Peter Grant](#)
To: [Peter Grant](#)
Subject: City Manager's Update - Farewell Cypress
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 6:35:33 PM

Team Cypress,

After over 11 years of service to the Cypress community, I have decided to resign as your City Manager. My journey with the City began July of 2014, and I say farewell as one of the longest tenured city managers in Orange County and the second longest in Cypress' history.

Since the City celebrated my 10-year anniversary earlier this year, countless employees and residents, six former Mayors, and business leaders have offered their support and expressed appreciation for our contributions to Cypress.

Their gratitude tracks with the Community Survey we established in 2018. Each time we've polled residents, upwards of 80 percent of them are satisfied with City services and more than one-third of respondents can't name a single change they would make to improve Cypress.

Working together, we strengthened the City's finances. Since 2014, financial reserves have grown by more \$70 million (50%), all while maintaining the lowest possible sales tax rate and twice being ranked the most financially stable city in Orange County. Cypress remains debt-free and is on target to fully fund its pension obligations by 2030. By incorporating strategic planning and performance measurements into our award-winning budgets and financial practices, we positioned Cypress to carry on a legacy of prudent fiscal management.

Working together, we made Cypress safer. Our partnership with the Police Officers Association is a significant part of the reason that Cypress consistently ranks among California's 20 safest cities. We invested in every aspect of public safety. We completely renovated the Police station with funds forfeited by criminals, upgraded all the department's vehicles, equipment and technology, restored the annual open house, and revived the School Resource Officer program.

Working together, we rebuilt and expanded Cypress' recreation amenities. We added Mackay Park, the City's first new park in more than 20 years. We built youth soccer and football players a home when we added award-winning Lexington Park. We reimagined Arnold Cypress Park, reinvigorating the neighborhood that surrounds it and creating first-class fields for girls softball and new courts for our pickleball community. There is no doubt in my mind that this amazing project is going to win all sorts of awards. Our creativity and foresight enabled the City to acquire land adjacent to Baroldi Sycamore Park and enable its expansion in 2026. These park investments were complemented by massive improvements to the Community Center and Senior Center that enhanced their functionality and extended their useful life.

Working together, we grew Cypress' local economy. We built remarkably successful

partnerships with the community's biggest landowners and businesses. We delivered major retail and housing projects that will benefit the community for decades. At The Square Cypress, we redeveloped a vacant City-owned parking lot and supported the business parks with much needed new housing options. We also brought Trader Joe's to Cypress and helped El Zape, a local institution, start a brilliant new chapter. Alongside a new Homewood Suites, these resident-serving amenities generate hundreds of thousands of dollars of new tax revenue for the City and were recognized with 2024 American Planning Association Housing Innovation Award. Our support of small businesses includes the City's first full-time employee dedicated to economic development since the dissolution of redevelopment agencies and initiatives like Cypress University and specialized resources to help entrepreneurs navigate planning and building permit processes.

Working together, we kept a nearly 70-year-old city's infrastructure looking and functioning like new. Cypress' streets and infrastructure are the envy of every city in north Orange County. We upgraded our traffic management system, flood control, facilities, and fleet. We beautified the city through the drought response strategy, diversified our urban forest, and upgraded the technology that manages and protects public facilities.

Working together, we debuted innovative programs and projects like the Cypress Central App, Salute to America fireworks show, the City's first technology master plan, modernized City communications, brought a farmers' market to Cypress, and a new City logo and brand are on the horizon.

It has been an incredible honor to work with you. I cannot imagine more talented and dedicated colleagues. You've heard me say how much I appreciate our culture. It's the foundation of everything we do for the community. Every day I worked for the City, I did my very best to protect and strengthen the environment in which we serve. Saying farewell to all of you has been a tremendously difficult decision, but I am immensely proud of what we've accomplished together over the past 11 years.

The best way I can think to end the last of the hundreds of emails you've received from me is to say THANK YOU – for everything. We started as colleagues, and I hope we say goodbye as friends. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you. Cypress is in good hands, and I look forward to all the great things in store for you.

Thank you,
Pete

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