Montebello City Councilman Frank Gomez won't seek re-election - SGVT...

Montebello City Councilman Frank Gomez won't see re-election

Councilman contends many elected officials are only interested in staying in office

By Peter Fullam, Staff Writer
@PeterFullam on Twitter

MONTEBELLO - City Councilman Frank Gomez announced Wednesday at the City Council meeting that he will not seek re-election in November.

"I am not and will not be a candidate for election," Gomez said during council members statements at the beginning of the meeting.

In making his exit, Gomez has some critical words for the current and past city councils.

"Current and past councils lack the ability to think creatively and outside of the box," he said.

As a result, they are satisfied with a city that is "living paycheck to paycheck" and just meeting expenses rather than a city that "thrive," he said in a telephone interview Thursday.

With the loss of economic development and the additional pressures the city will face, Gomez said the status quo won't be enough to bring the city financial stability.

In Montebello's case, he said the city needs a large capital infusion. He cited three possibilities for achieving that, building in the Montebello hills, switching to the county fire department and implementing a utility tax.

He said the elected officials he has served with on school boards and City Council seem only concern being re-elected.

"They're putting on the appearance that everything is rosey," he said. "Everything is not rosey in Mont-"

He said it's important for voters to think about who they vote for and ask why people are running. Though they say for p service, he said it's a mix of power, ego ai

"It's really self-serving," he said.
Montebello City Councilman Frank Gomez won’t seek re-election - SGVT...

He also said the city needs a long-term strategic plan.

Gomez said he will be getting married and leaving the area. He also has increasing responsibilities at Cal State LA, where he is a professor of chemistry.

He said he felt he has given enough time in public service.

“It’s time to move on with the next stage,”

Gomez received his bachelor of science degree in chemistry with departmental honors in 1986 from Cal State LA. He received his doctorate from UCLA in 1991 and was a post-doctoral fellow in chemistry at Harvard University from 1991 to 1994.

He is vice chairman of the board for the Don Bosco Technical Institute.

Gomez was elected in November 2009. He served as mayor, a post that rotates among the council members, from November 2011 to November 2012. His term ends in November, according to the City Clerk’s Office.

“I look forward to completing my last few months,” he said at the council meeting.
Latest Videos

Replica Vietnam Memorial Wall visits La Habra

Replica Vietnam Memorial Wall visits La Habra

Time: 02:36

Officials tranquilize bear in Sierra Madre

Officials tranquilize bear in Sierra Madre.

Time: 01:20

Montebello City Councilman Frank Gomez won't seek re-election - SGVT...

Montebello City Councilman Frank Gomez won't seek re-election - SGVT...