



Deputy Mayor Will Not Run in 2020 Maureen Freschet Leaving City Council After 8 Years of Service

San Mateo, CA – San Mateo Deputy Mayor Maureen Freschet announced that she will not run for reelection in 2020 and will leave City Council this November after completing her second 4-year term. Addressing the public at Monday night’s Council meeting, Freschet said “this decision was not made easily or lightly, but after ten years of intense public service it is time for me to change roles, honor family obligations and serve the community in other ways.” Since State legislation added an unanticipated fifth year to her term, the remaining four City Council members will be tasked with filling the resulting 1-year vacancy.

Mayor Diane Papan noted that “Maureen’s departure will leave a significant leadership void on Council. Deputy Mayor Freschet has been the consummate public servant, always guided by that most important of principles ‘doing what is best for San Mateo.’ Our City is greatly enriched by her dedication and contributions. It has been an absolute honor and a privilege to have served alongside her.”

Freschet served as a member and Chair of the San Mateo Planning Commission before being elected to City Council in 2011 and reelected to a 4-year term in 2015. She served as Mayor in 2015 and would have been the presumptive Mayor again in 2020. She was elected to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors in 2016 and subsequently appointed to the pioneer Joint Powers Authority charged with managing the impending Highway 101 Express Lanes Project.

“Maureen has been an outstanding public leader and her ability to analyze all elements of complex issues will be missed” said County Manager Mike Callagy. “She is known for her intellect, passion, humor, integrity, class and ability to get things done. My great hope is that she will put these attributes to work for our County in some other capacity.”

A third generation native of San Mateo who attended local schools, Freschet retired in 2015 from a top government relations and development post at Notre Dame de Namur University, where she also earned her undergraduate degree in Human Services and her master’s degree in Public Administration while raising two daughters in San Mateo as a single mom. She has served on numerous local and regional Boards and Commissions and is well known for her determination to achieve fiscal stability, initiate major infrastructure and road repairs, promote business and preserve the quality of life in San Mateo neighborhoods.

Council member Eric Rodriguez pointed out that “Maureen has always been an unwavering advocate for our neighborhoods and was instrumental in driving downtown revitalization and promoting local commerce. I will sorely miss her thoughtful and passionate voice on the dais.”

Freschet has been a longtime advocate for public safety and youth services. She served on the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice Commission and is an active member of the San Mateo Police Activities League Board of Directors and a vocal proponent of public safety. Chief Susan Manheimer credited Freschet with being “a consistent champion for the needs of our Police Department and its members in

keeping our city safe. Our Deputy Mayor has been an incredibly dedicated public official who always sought to understand the issues, and we are deeply grateful for her clear focus on the importance of public safety to every person in our community. We will miss her greatly”.

Freschet reflected at Monday night’s City Council meeting that she was gratified that the goals she set when running for election in 2011 had been largely achieved and expressed confidence that the City of San Mateo was in good hands and resolved to stay active in the community. “My years on City Council have been incredibly rewarding, demanding and most of all a great honor. San Mateo is blessed with a highly informed and engaged electorate and a broad base of talented and capable individuals that I would strongly encourage to seek public office.”

When Informed of Freschet’s decision, State Senator Jerry Hill said “Maureen has long been an effective leader in the community and a pragmatic consensus builder on the City Council. Her thoughtful, compassionate approach to the issues and positive demeanor on the dais will be missed.”

Freschet was reelected to a 4-year term on the City Council in 2015. In 2017, voters approved a Charter Amendment to align with state requirements and move Council elections to even years. Current Council members’ terms were each extended one additional year with the next general election planned for 2020.

City Manager Drew Corbett explained the remaining four Council members will discuss how to fill the seat at an upcoming Council meeting. Per the City’s Charter, the Council has 30 days after Freschet officially leaves her post to appoint a replacement.

“Serving on a City Council is a big commitment and Council Member Freschet’s contributions to San Mateo have been immeasurable,” Corbett said. “I know this wasn’t an easy decision for her and I’m thankful to have had the opportunity to work with her for the benefit of the community.”

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