



residential characteristics of the area and allows new residential development that is compatible with the neighborhood's character. It also includes higher density in appropriate community corridors, where commercial, retail and more dense residential uses will be developed. The plan will improve the environmental health conditions of the neighborhood by reducing the co-location of houses with businesses that use, store or generate hazardous materials. In addition, the plan will allow mixed uses that increase local activity and create a neighborhood where goods, services, recreation and public transit are within walking distance.

Implementation of the city's amortization ordinance will, over time, lead to the relocation of existing polluting industrial businesses outside of Old Town and away from homes and schools. In an effort to enhance, improve and protect the natural environment of Paradise Creek, which flows through the community, the Specific Plan will limit polluting industrial and residential uses immediately adjacent to the creek and take advantage of this natural resource through the creation of a public park and walking trails. The plan also calls for street and sidewalk improvements that, along with increased park space, will further improve walkability and community activity, one of many combined efforts to reduce the high rates of obesity and diabetes among Old Town residents.

The Old Town Specific Plan represents the true spirit of collaboration. When elected officials, community leaders and local businesses work together, we create solutions that meet the needs of everyone. We look forward to adoption and implementation of this plan as National City continues its transformation into a safer, healthier, thriving community.

*Morrison, a lifelong resident of National City and its immediate vicinity, was elected mayor of the city in 2006. Richardson is director of the Healthy Eating Active Communities Initiative and a resident of National City.*

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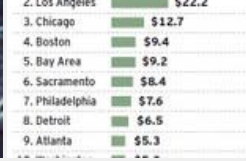
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