

**RESOLUTION NO. 07-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS SUPPORTING THE FORMATION OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY HEALTH BENEFITS COALITION; THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS' PARTICIPATION IN THE COALITION; AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY TO CONTRIBUTE A SPECIFIED AMOUNT TO THE COALITION**

WHEREAS, the cost of providing health care benefits to public employees continues to escalate beyond the ability of local government agencies to pay for those benefits;

WHEREAS, government agencies in other regions have found it advantageous to form local coalitions of the purchasers of public employee health care benefits;

WHEREAS, such a coalition could achieve efficiencies that reduce the cost of providing health care benefits to public employees while also increasing the quality of those services;

WHEREAS, those efficiencies could include requiring local health care providers to post prices for the most common medical procedures in a standard format on their websites and also provide data about the quality and outcomes of services in a standard format, both of which have been shown to reduce health care costs in other regions;

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition could identify and facilitate other cost savings and improvements to quality of public employee health care benefits that could be collaboratively achieved;

WHEREAS, the formation of a local coalition will create an entity that could join forces with a similar coalition currently forming at the state level, known as the California Health Care Coalition, to achieve additional efficiencies;

WHEREAS, several foundations have active programs to fund innovative regional efforts to address issues such as those within the scope of the proposed Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition;

WHEREAS, the proposed Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition will take no actions that interfere with collective bargaining procedures currently in place at its member public agencies, and:

WHEREAS, the proposed Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition will be governed initially by a steering committee composed of one member from each participating public agency; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition will be facilitated by its acting co-chairs, Santa Clara County Supervisor Jim Beall and Foothill-De Anza Community College District Trustee Hal Plotkin, until such time as a Coalition steering committee establishes formal by-laws and selects new leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, AND DETERMINE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City of Los Altos supports the formation and will participate in the Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition; and
2. The City of Los Altos will contribute an amount, based on a sliding scale and not to exceed Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000), to support the recruitment and retention of a qualified grant writer to solicit foundation support for a two-year Santa Clara County Health Benefits Coalition pilot project.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Los Altos City Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2007, by the following vote:

AYES:           PACKARD, CARPENTER, CASAS, BECKER, COLE  
NOES:           NONE  
ABSENT:        NONE



Robert C. Cole, MAYOR



Susan Kitchens, CITY CLERK