

**The Bentley Plan
For The Future Of Desert Hot Springs
Part 3 of 3**

WHOLESOME YOUTH ACTIVITIES – Inspiring our kids to reach their highest potential is an essential element for Desert Hot Springs to reach its highest potential. We should teach our youth by example, demonstrating good old fashioned dignity, honor, the value of kindness and the power of a smile.

I cherish education and educators. We can help kids aim for college and give them the resources they need to be really successful. Our future depends on building a community of successful individuals. Successful people who want to give back to the Desert Hot Springs that helped them to be so successful. Good creates good and we all benefit. The long-term success of our children and city takes commitment, but because our children's success and therefore our success is what hangs in the balance, we must make whatever commitment is necessary.

I have long supported wholesome youth activities with parent input as to what the parents and children want. I would never have kids doing something their parents don't want. I have lived here 32-years. I grew up here. I know how it is to grow up here. Wholesome youth activities are an investment in real people that is worth making. The benefits of such an investment are many. With wholesome youth activities our kids naturally learn good sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect. Teens become good role models for their little brothers and sisters because they know the little ones are watching and they don't want the little ones to go down a bad road. We build a community where our pride doesn't come by making others feel as less, but instead our pride wells up because we do all we can to uplift the spirits of others.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES – I am a strong supporter of art in public places. I believe that public/private partnerships may provide the most satisfying results. In this area we need an open process, encouraging public input and participation. Potential litigation should be avoided in relation to what type of art we should have. Recognizing the potential of litigation, in my view, is the first step to avoiding needless litigation. However, the city should not let the legally baseless threats of the Building Industry Association stand in the way of the public's right to have art in public places. Maximum public input and involvement ensures our best chance at inspiring all while offending none.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT – Our natural resources and beauty are the source of our wealth. Our spa industry and family lifestyle depend on our clean air and water. It is truly a miracle that we need to protect. I have seen 32-years of destruction of pristine desert with no plan for the future other than more destruction. Where will we be if we eventually completely destroy our only source of wealth?

When I was a kid I found barrels of toxic waste in our desert. I cried about it because I knew it was just a matter of time before my desert would be completely destroyed. I made a commitment to the land that I would do what I could to protect it. I love Desert Hot Springs with all my heart.

It is shocking to me when people say mean spirited things about the animals. Yvonne Parks has said on many occasions that, "the pocket mouse can find somewhere else to live". She said it with a tone as if the pocket mouse had done something wrong to her personally. I was disgusted when a local political website featured a recipe for fringe-toed lizard soup. This type of attitude is revolting to me. During the Cold War I volunteered to jump out of airplanes in a foreign land to protect my home town Desert Hot Springs. I risked my life for the pocket mouse, the fringe-toed lizard, and all our natural resources and beauty, as well as the people of Desert Hot Springs and my nation. They are part of the irreplaceable wealth of our nation and don't belong to any one person.

I am deeply committed to preserving open space and protecting our air, water, views, and other natural resources. We should promote water conservation and recycling as being the smart thing

to do economically as well as the right thing to do for the environment, our children, and ourselves.

QUALITY CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – There are people trying to convince you that our city is desperate and so we must beg and give your money to developers through their “redevelopment” schemes, so they will come here and build whatever they want wherever they want, trampling the rights and dignity of the people of Desert Hot Springs. This is no way to get the quality development we need.

We will attract needed commercial development when we effectively deal with the traditional responsibilities of local government, starting with public safety. I strongly support private property rights and oppose eminent domain. I am guided by traditional American notions of fundamental fairness.

I have a deep respect for the history of Desert Hot Springs and important historical locations in our area. Historical preservation is not only a worthy goal because it could be very profitable but because it gives us a sense of our place in the world. Desert Hot Springs history is a gift we all can share. It is a gift that, with just a little work and forbearance, we share with countless future generations.

We need to be more selective with development projects and make sure proper inspections are performed. Homebuyers need to be given proper disclosures as required by law. Unscrupulous real estate people and developers have hoodwinked many homebuyers in a seemingly infinite number of ways. Dishonest people are crafty and an honest person often doesn't see it coming. Regular folks are entitled to the protection of the laws too. I am here to protect regular folks.

Developers want to make a profit from us. That is why they will come here, for the opportunity (but only to the extent that our city effectively attends to the traditional responsibilities of local government). We don't have to beg them or give them your money. I will make sure that the people of Desert Hot Springs profit; that we get the best deal for the taxpayer. I work for you the taxpayer. I strongly oppose the City Council continuing to risk more of the taxpayer's hard earned money in the real estate market.



BUILD COMMUNITY PRIDE – We need to always demonstrate our deep respect for the contributions and viewpoints of individuals. This helps to promote community involvement and build community pride. When people are appreciated they feel good about helping.

The people of Desert Hot Springs deserve reasonable, principled leaders who are open to the opinions and ideas of others. We deserve leaders who take responsibility for their actions; who build a reputation of professional competence and responsibility for our city government.

One way the City can help build community pride is by providing fair and effective code enforcement. We need to stop illegal trash dumping, graffiti, etc. However, fining people \$1000 a day for all code enforcement violations with no notice or opportunity to be heard is unfair, counterproductive because it prevents voluntary compliance, and is probably illegal.

Immediate public safety hazards should be a top priority. And any public safety hazard should be treated differently than a code violation that does not threaten the safety of the public.

Clear instructions need to be given by the City Council to Code Enforcement Officers, as has been recently requested by the Chief of Police. Voluntary compliance is enhanced if the requirements of the law are clear.

Due process, which at a minimum consists of notice and a right to be heard, enhances voluntary compliance as well. In cases not involving a public safety hazard, a respectful note from the city may get substantial voluntary compliance. I believe most people are reasonable, and a respectful approach will work most of the time without any other expense.

Additionally, a logical approach enhances public trust. It is logical to treat code violations that do not threaten the safety of the public in a more flexible way than those that do.

In either case, we should assist voluntary compliance in those cases where the person wants to comply but is unable due to disability, etc.

Fines should be based on a scale that relates the amount of the fine to the severity of the violation in terms of its threat to public safety. A flat \$1000 a day fine is arbitrary and eliminates all the benefits of graduated punishments.

The fact is that there are traditional, proven approaches to code enforcement. In law school I have studied this subject with great interest. The City Council currently has no member that has professional legal training in this area. I can tell you simply that there are a number of proper approaches one can take to code enforcement; and that making it up as you go is not one of them.

A CALL TO ACTION

Imagine your personal vision of beauty for Desert Hot Springs and feel the inspiration. With the power of our vision and the strength of our will, we will fulfill our destiny of success. It's going to take hard work. But with optimistic resolve, determination, and vigilance, we can make working together to improve our city fun and exciting.

I look forward to upholding the highest dignity and respect, making you proud that you voted for me. My campaign is about fundamental fairness. My core values of leadership are honesty, integrity, trust, dignity and respect.

I have no doubt that deep down in their hearts the other candidates feel that excessive taxes and wasteful spending are wrong. The question is who has the strength of their convictions. Think about it, in any compromise between right and wrong, the wrong wins; in any compromise between good and evil, the evil wins. It is an objective fact that excessive taxes and wasteful spending are wrong. There can be no compromise.

I am the one lower taxes candidate. I am the one. Now is the time. It's your money. Now is the time to take a stand against excessive taxes and wasteful spending. Please vote Robert Bentley, new leadership for lower taxes, limited government, and individual rights.

Thank You,
Robert M. Bentley