

Committee to Elect  
Ron Smith

Chairman  
**Rex Moen**

Treasurer  
**Jamie Smith**

Finance Chair  
**Rita Burleson**

# RON SMITH

**Lancaster City Council**

## PLANNING COMMISSION STANDS PAT

Members

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**Mary Faux**

**Lynn Harrison**

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**Fran Marroquin**

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**Steve Milar**

**Tom Pigott**

**Bill Rourke**

**Julie Drake**  
**Antelope Valley Press**  
**April 30, 2004**

LANCASTER — The city's planning commission will retain the same makeup after commissioners Steve Baldus, Kenneth Mann and Ron Smith were reappointed on three consecutive unanimous votes by the City Council.

The planning commission oversees the city's General Plan and are charged with governing the city's developments.

Mayor Frank Roberts nominated Mann, the commission's vice chairman to the two-year term, which coincides with his mayoral term.

"He's been an exemplary guy (who) has the interests of the community at heart, and I prize him as the kind of commissioner I want," Roberts said, noting "It's a thankless job" for which commissioners are not paid.

Mann previously served from 1992 to 1996 as an appointee of then-Mayor George Runner. He was reappointed to the commission by the council as Roberts' nominee in 1997, 2000 and 2002.

Both Baldus and Smith will serve four-year terms.

Baldus, a third-grade teacher at Joshua Elementary School, was first appointed to the commission in 1998 as Councilman Andy Visokey's nominee. He was reappointed in 2000.

Smith, who currently serves as the commission's chairman, was first appointed to the commission in 2001 after he was nominated by then-councilwoman Michelle Idleman. He was reappointed in 2002 by the council on Councilman Jim Jeffra's nomination, after Jeffra's original appointee, Ed Sileo, won a seat on the City Council.

Smith is a retired Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy and adjunct faculty instructor

## **PLANNING COMMISSION STANDS PAT**

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at Antelope Valley College, where he teaches computer graphics. He also is accomplished artist and owns a graphics business.

In coming years, Smith said the commission will take a more proactive approach toward planning to help the city create a vision for the future.

“I believe we need a focal point, and that point should be Lancaster Boulevard,” Smith said. “I’d like to see downtown Lancaster be a destination point and not an afterthought or a shortcut.”

He added the commission is in the early investigation stages of looking at form-based zoning codes that would include signage, benches, water fountains, landscaping, a bicycle path, walkways, reducing it to two-lanes and possibly bring back diagonal parking.

The goal, Smith said, is to make Lancaster Boulevard “a place where people want to get out of their cars and walk around.”

The commission has asked staff to look into a General Plan amendment to change the zoning near the new Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse on Fourth Street West and Avenue M from light industrial to office professional.

Ideally, Smith would like to see a mixed-use building in the area that would have shops, restaurants or cafes on the bottom floor and office space for attorneys, bailbondsmen and other professionals that would support the court.

