

Welcome to Summit

- Developments over the past year have focused the City's attention on the benefits of improving the health and well-being of employees and retirees:
 - Retiree health care costs need to be identified and posted on the City's financial statements
 - Recognizing the cost of these future benefits require the City to plan and fund for these costs.
 - Solutions are needed to reduce the rising costs of health care for both retirees and active.
 - Wellness programs are a viable solution to reducing health care costs, and offer win-win solutions for the City, employees and retirees.
 - On June 9, a presentation to City Council on the Retiree Health Care issue garnered the Council's enthusiastic support for developing new wellness initiatives.
 - The City approved a two-year pilot wellness program in the FY 08/09 budget.
- All of you were invited to attend today's Wellness Summit because of an important role you will play in both the development and the ultimate success of our wellness initiatives. Our goal is to create a wellness program which will improve the current health status of employees and retirees and to reduce the risk of employees/retirees developing future illness/injuries.
- Your participation in today's Wellness Summit and future wellness initiatives is important work. Wellness initiatives require buy in and leadership from all stakeholders throughout our organization. It also requires collaboration between all of the respective parties.
- Our goals for today's Summit are to have the following outcomes:
 - Define our overarching Wellness Program strategies
 - Build the infrastructure for exploring and evaluating health initiatives
 - Identify and prioritize specific initiatives to be pursued
- I look forward to seeing the outcome of your work today.