

Goode named to university post

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

EAST PALO ALTO — Kenneth G. Goode, 46, former Municipal Council administrative officer, has been appointed an assistant vice-president of the State University of New York (SUNY).

Goode will work in the student services and staff relations department at SUNY's 5,000-student liberal arts campus at Geneseo.

His primary duty will be to handle student and staff complaints, according to Dr. Ronald Saprya, a vice-president for student services and staff relations.

He said Goode was chosen from among three applicants, and is to report to work Jan. 15.

In the meantime, the Municipal Council has spent at least four months without an administrative officer, and does not seem close to hiring one.

East Palo Alto is an unincorporated area of San Mateo County, and its administrative officer is comparable to the position of city manager.

Council member Bradford Stamper said the council had "reviewed the possibility of hiring someone" in August. Those negotiations apparently were not successful.

There are "applications for the position sitting on the desk that have not even been looked at," one

council member said Tuesday.

Why?

"No one has gotten around to doing that," was the reply.

Council member Berkely Driessel said Tuesday, "I wish I could tell you" what will be done about hiring for the position.

Driessel, East Palo Alto's vice mayor, said he does not know if Mayor Barbara Mouton will handle the hiring or not.

"We have to read the applications," he said.

Council member Henry Anthony said he expects Mouton to set a schedule for review of the applications in the near future.

The council has been without an administrative officer at least since October, when Goode officially left the post.

Goode served as an assistant vice chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley from 1970 to 1976.

He officially served as administrative officer for the Municipal Council from February 1977 until October 1980.

However, he had actually absented himself by September 1980, in part because of a minor back injury.

Goode's specific reasons for resigning have not been made public.

Last April, he asked that his resignation be effective in April 1981 "to give the council ample time to

find a replacement," he said then.

The Municipal Council did not respond publicly to Goode's resignation until mid-June.

The council's decision at that time was to accept the resignation as of July — ten months earlier than Goode had asked.

Goode later asked for an extension of his tenure until Oct. 31, which was granted.

In October he requested a second extension, which the council denied in a 3-2 vote.

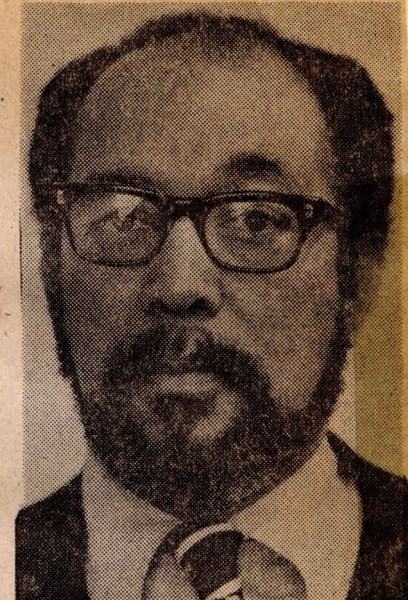
Goode's tenure with the Municipal Council was a rocky one, almost from its inception, marked by frequent differences with various council members, especially Henry Anthony.

As early as November 1977, only nine months after he was hired, council member Anthony said Goode had "accomplished little," since assuming the position.

A major complaint was that a move toward incorporation was stalled under Goode's stewardship, Anthony said.

Then, in April 1979, Goode said he had been asked not to speak to the press. Council members were concerned about discrepancies between his statements and the council's position on issues.

In a Municipal Council meeting in August 1979, Anthony and Goode openly argued over the adequacy of a report Goode had prepared.



Kenneth Goode

In an interview in September, Goode said the council position had been a mixture of "fascination and frustration."

He said that, while he felt the council had accomplished a lot during his three years there, much more could have been accomplished.

"Each different council member has a different approach to doing things and different goals," he said. Such frustrations, "make it difficult to work toward a common goal."

He was especially frustrated, he said, with stalled efforts to close down or renovate the Nairobi Shopping Center and create a marina at Cooley Landing.