



Zach Friend named Board of Supervisors chair

Board of Supervisors
Greg Caput is vice-chair

✓ By TARMO HANNULA
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN
SANTA CRUZ — Supervisor Zach Friend was named chair of the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

Outgoing chair Neal Coonerly passed the gavel on to Friend following a year at the post.

The chair is in charge of running meetings, and serves

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Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian file

as a department head for board offices. The chair also helps set agendas for the year.

"A key priority for 2014 is working with my fellow supervisors to seeing through the economic vitality strategy program and necessary planning code changes to strengthen the local economy," Friend said Wednesday. "Another would be improving the technological interaction with the community through more online forms, the ability to submit road repair requests through a mobile app and more. It can be difficult for people to interact with the county during business hours and we should find

a way to simplify the intake of their requests at times (and methods) that are best for our residents."

Friend said he also wants to finalize his broadband (high-speed Internet) proposals to expand access and capacity for businesses and residents.

"There is no question that having better Internet access throughout the county, and increased competition for lower costs, will improve business recruitment and retention and allow for the expansive ability of home-based businesses," Friend said.

Creating Economic Development as a stand-alone depart-

RP 1-16-14
ment to allow additional staff dedicated to improving the local economic climate is also on the list. Friend said he plans to work with the Planning Department to streamline planning codes to make it easier and quicker to obtain permits for everything from home repairs to business expansion.

One project Friend has had on a back burner for a while is updating the physical Supervisor's Chamber on the fifth floor of the County Building.

"Most of the technology and the ability for the public

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