

Michael Karp, Councilmember Bio

The citizens of *Big Bear Lake* chose Michael Karp as their representative on the City Council in November of 2006. *Council* committees on which he currently serves include the *Financial* and *Audit Committees*. Mr. Karp's related regional board responsibilities include: *The Mojave Desert & Mountains Recycling Joint Powers Authority* and the countywide *Solid Waste Advisory Taskforce*.

Mr. Karp has maintained a business in *Big Bear Lake* since 1986. He moved to the *Big Bear Valley* as a full-time resident in 1990. As a California licensed *Marriage & Family Therapist*, Mr. Karp worked in the *Family Counseling Center* and facilitated the first men's *anger-management* group for the *Valley's* domestic violence program, DOVES. From 1996-2000, Mr. Karp taught psychology courses at the Big Bear satellite of *San Bernardino Valley College*. From 1987 through 1997, he wrote a weekly self-help column in the local *Shopper* and the now defunct *Bear Valley Voice*. From 1996 through 2004, his self-help program, *Living and Loving*, was a regular feature on Big Bear's radio station, *KBHR-FM*. Mr. Karp currently maintains a local private practice in *Marriage & Family Therapy*, treating adults, couples, teens, children and their families.

Mr. Karp was born and raised in Brooklyn and Queens, New York. He graduated from Brooklyn College in 1973 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology. He received his MA-graduate degree in Professional Psychology from the *State University of New York* at Plattsburgh in 1979. He worked as a therapist and unit supervisor in public agencies until moving to Big Bear.

Working with people over the span of his career has left Mr. Karp with an appreciation of the impact of government policy upon families and those struggling economically. For this reason, many of his interests as a councilmember focus upon making our community a healthy place to live economically, structurally and aesthetically. This means keeping fees and utility costs low, ensuring jobs and fair economic opportunity, providing affordable housing, constructing parks and other community facilities in addition to "traditional" infrastructure (i.e. roads, sewers), and maintaining the beauty and quality of life that brought citizens to Big Bear in the first place.

Another focus of Mr. Karp's is government communication with the citizens it serves. For this reason, he champions and participates in citizen/government dialogue using both traditional and high-tech means.