

City of Vacaville

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VACAVILLE CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT PLANS

David Van Kirk, City Manager of the City of Vacaville for the last six years and a City employee for the last 24 years, announced his plans to retire at the end of 2008.

Van Kirk, who spent a total of 32 years in the public sector, notified the City Council on Monday morning of his plans to leave the City on Dec. 31, 2008. He also notified his Department Heads the same morning.

“There’s never a good time to do this,” Van Kirk said, “especially in a dynamic city like Vacaville, but this is probably the best time for me, my family, and the new council that will be coming in after the election.”

Van Kirk said he felt he was leaving the City in good hands considering he had a hand in hiring all of the current department heads as well as several other key positions on the City staff.

“I’m proud of the fact that we have one of the best teams in Solano County to keep things going,” Van Kirk said.

Other factors he cited in announcing his retirement at the end of the year included major projects on the horizon, including updating the City’s General Plan and preparing the next two-year Strategic Plan.

“I love this job, the City, and the people I have worked with over the years, yet I believe this decision is best for my family, the organization, and for me,” Van Kirk said in a memo to the City Council. “Nadia and I plan to stay in Vacaville and will continue to support the City.”

No plans for selecting a successor to Van Kirk have been announced. His memo to the City Council is attached.

October 1, 2008

MEMO TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: David J. Van Kirk, City Manager

After considerable consideration, I have reached one of the most difficult decisions in my life. I plan to retire on December 31, 2008. This has been an especially tough decision because I continue to enjoy most aspects of the job, I appreciate the continued support I receive from the City Council, I am proud of what the organization has accomplished, and I am still excited about the City's future. That said, I feel that after 32 years in this profession, and 24 years with Vacaville, it's time for a break.

In a dynamic city like Vacaville, it can feel like a 24-7 job keeping the City moving in the right direction. I feel comforted knowing that the City is well positioned and is in great hands. Even given the current state of our economy, the City is in relatively good shape, and there are more opportunities than threats on Vacaville's horizon.

I will truly miss the wonderful people I have had the privilege of working with over the years. They include great Mayors and Councils, a top-notch management team, hard-working City employees, and many interested residents. It has been exciting to work together with this dedicated group of people – with a unified vision and goal – to ensure that Vacaville remains a special place for the citizens of this community.

I have selected December 31st for a couple of reasons. First, the City Council will change in November and is typically seated at the first meeting in December. The new Council should appoint my successor. My departure a month later will give the new Council time to consider what process they want to follow in selecting my replacement. Second, beginning next year, the City will be embarking on several long-term initiatives, i.e. the new two-year Strategic Plan and the General Plan Update, both of which will require continuity in staff and Council to accomplish.

I love this job, the City, and the people I have worked with over the years, yet I believe this decision is best for my family, the organization, and for me. Nadia and I plan to stay in Vacaville and will continue to support the City.