



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NATIONAL CITY'S CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCED PLANS TO RETIRE IN LATE SPRING

Leslie Deese, the City Manager of National City, who has been with the City nearly thirty-three years, including the last seven as City Manager, announced today that she will retire sometime in late spring when the City Council appoints a new City Manager. The City will conduct a recruitment for a new City Manager in the coming months, during which time Ms. Deese will continue to oversee the operation of the City, as directed by the Mayor and City Council.

In announcing her retirement, Ms. Deese praised the efforts of the City Council, the City's other elected officials, and the City staff: "It has been a tremendous blessing and privilege to serve the National City community for the past 33 years. I feel a deep sense of pride in all that we've accomplished, none of which would have been possible without your hard work and dedication. To all of you, especially all the employees who go to great lengths every day, putting in the extra effort that so often goes unsung, to make our city a better place, thank you from the bottom of my heart." She also thanked National City's "businesses, residents and community partners" for their "unfailing support over the years."

The Mayor and Council had the following to say about Leslie's upcoming retirement, "It has been a sincere pleasure to serve with Leslie as our City Manager. We truly appreciate the many years of dedicated service Leslie gave to this community and her focus on the professional development of our employees which leaves a lasting legacy in National City. We wish her the very best on this new life chapter!"

James Slade, Chapter President Municipal Employees Association/SEIU Local 221, echoes the Council's sentiments adding, "We the Municipal Employee Association express our genuine thanks for your dynamic and inspirational leadership and the positive impact it has had on us all. Your consummate professionalism will be missed by our Association and we wish you the best in your future endeavors." The City's public safety teams also wish Ms. Deese well in her retirement. "The National City firefighters would like to congratulate Leslie on her retirement. Working under your leadership and guidance was truly an honor," said James Stiles, National City Firefighters Association Local 2744. Omar Ramirez, President, National City Police Officers Association adds that "Leslie has been an exceptional City Manager and friend to all of the members of the National City Police Officers Association. Leslie has worked tirelessly in the best interest of National City and public safety."

After serving four years in the United States Navy, working in the Pentagon for the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Ms. Deese began her local government career with National City as a secretary in the City Manager's office, and later promoted to Executive Assistant to the City Manager, Director of Community Services, and Assistant City Manager, before the City Council unanimously appointed her City Manager in 2012.

As City Manager, Ms. Deese has worked with the City Council and dedicated Staff to overcome the challenges of a global recession, and achieve wide-ranging goals including: robust economic growth, financial solvency, and the high level of services the community deserves. Some of the accomplishments during her tenure include: building high-quality affordable housing, creating a business-friendly climate to attract new businesses, implementing new public-safety technology, establishing a pension trust fund, achieving an A+ bond rating, upgrading the City's infrastructure, securing multi-million-dollar-per-year grants, and successfully campaigning for renewal of the City's sales-tax measure.