



RALPH BECKER
MAYOR

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 15, 2009

Council Chair Carlton Christensen
Salt Lake City Council
451 South State Street, Room 304
P.O. Box 145476
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5476

Dear Council Chair Christensen:

I am happy to recommend Kurt Cook to replace Tom Shannon as Salt Lake City's next Fire Chief. As I am sure you know, Deputy Chief Cook has worked in the Salt Lake City Fire Department for twenty four years and has been a critically valuable source of knowledge and experience. While I am saddened by Tom Shannon's departure, I am grateful to rely upon Deputy Chief Cook's skills and expertise in Salt Lake City to lead the Fire Department forward.

If can be helpful in the confirmation process or if you have any questions for me, please let me know.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ralph Becker".

Ralph Becker
Mayor

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Personal Profile

I am happily married to my wife Robin of 26 years with two adult children one of which is graduating UVU this year. I am proud to be a second generation firefighter with the Salt Lake City Fire Department. My earliest recollection of life evolves around the fire department. I have served in the fire department with the utmost respect, diligence, compassion and professionalism for all of those we serve. My commitment to our service and community grows stronger and stronger with each passing year. As I have matured in my leadership roles throughout these years, I pride myself as a seasoned veteran leader in the fire service today.

Key Qualifications

24 years of progressive career development and advancement within the fire department to the current position of Deputy Chief of Operations. Proven leadership knowledge, skills, and abilities with exemplary service record. Strong interpersonal relations built on trust and credibility within the city and fire service communities. Desire and willingness to lead the Salt Lake City Fire Department in serving the citizens and community of Salt Lake City.

Professional/Occupational Experience

August 2006 appointed to Deputy Chief, SLCFD. Executive and Administrative responsibilities encompassing all operational and divisional functions within the fire department. Responsibilities include providing vision, leadership, personnel management, strategic planning; labor relations and negotiations, policy development, budget management, emergency operations and community relations. Supporting role to the office of the Chief and assumption of duties and responsibilities of the Chief in his absence.

March 2000 promoted to Battalion Chief, SLCFD. Served as Operations Chief over 14 stations managing emergency operations, training and development, resource management and logistics. Managed multiple large scale emergency incidents over the years. Venue Commander during the 2002 Olympics coordinating planning, prevention, response and mitigation for the Olympic Village. Served as Division Chief over the Training, Apparatus and Special Operations Divisions; managing the largest non personnel budgets within the department.

July 1996 promoted to Captain, SLCFD, Served as Department Training Officer overseeing the development and training of personnel including recruits, apprentices, technical specialists, and officers. Served as Station and Company Officer responsible for emergency response and mitigation, preplanning, community preparedness, and firefighter development.

March 1992 promoted to Engineer, SLCFD, Operated nearly every apparatus within the fleet at numerous large incidents during this time. Involved heavily in the recruitment and training of engineers as an instructor and emergency vehicle operations specialist. Coordinated District and Emergency Response committees including mapping and water distribution systems.

November 1985 hired as Firefighter, SLCFD, Represented graduating recruit class as Valedictorian. Successfully completed four year apprenticeship program recognized by the Utah Department of labor.

Realtor/Developer/Owner, Active in the real estate business for numerous years. Co-owned Eagle Building and Development, LLC.

Education and Training

Academic, Attended the University of Utah in 1982. Participated in distance learning with Western Oregon University in Personnel/Human Resource Management. Outreach continuing education through U of U with the Leadership Development series.

Technical, Includes a variety of training, participation and certification from the National Fire Academy, Emergency Management Institute, and FEMA which include but are not limited to Managing Company Tactical Operations, Leadership Series, USAR, Hazmat Incident Management, Emergency Response to Terrorism and NIMS. Also applicable are continuing education from Truckee Meadows Community College, Fire Officer Development, California Fire Instructors Workshop, Utah fire and Rescue Academy. Utah State Certified Fire Instructor.

Cultural, 2 year Spanish speaking mission, Spain 1980-1982

Committees, Teams and Industry Associations

Chaired, Co-chaired, or participated in Labor Management, Executive Committee, Labor Negotiations with AFSCME, Local 1645, PEC-900 series, Joint Apprentice Training Committee, Utah Training Officers Association, Officer Development Committee, Engineer Committee, Resource Allocation Committee, Technology Development, Hazmat and Technical Rescue Steering Committees, Olympic Planning, Facility Design and Development Team. Member of IAFC and WFC. Created a vast network of associations with neighboring agencies, and community partners while serving on the Valley Chiefs Alliance.

Community Service and Civic Involvement

Civic Volunteer, Volunteer in various capacities as needed during well known events such as the Annual Oakley PRCA sanctioned Rodeo and 4th of July Celebrations, food drives, neighborhood and community service projects. Served in various ecclesiastical roles including youth and scouting programs.

Community and City Council Meetings, Participation as fire department member in Community Councils. Administrative representative in building strategic partnerships throughout the public safety industry both public and private sectors. Implemented department Community Council outreach program.

Ran for Oakley City Council 1997, lost by a very narrow margin