



MAYOR CARL BREWER'S STATEMENT

I want to thank council members and media for attending today's news conference. We're here to announce that Wichita City Manager George Kolb plans to resign as the city government's top administrator, effective Jan. 2.

Mr. Kolb's resignation follows weeks of discussions with Wichita City Council members about philosophical differences. Unfortunately, we have not been able to sufficiently resolve those differences.

As you know, Mr. Kolb has served as City Manager since July, 26 2004. He's brought great experience and passion to improving City Government and City Hall's image. Among other achievements, the Council credits him with:

- Focusing on customer service
- Implementing the Transforming Wichita organizational improvement initiative
- Initiating the process for construction of a new airport terminal
- Retooling the annual budget process
- And emphasizing Core Area improvements, including award-winning Old Town and the Stopblight initiative in distressed residential and commercial neighborhoods.

The City of Wichita has moved forward under George's management. Despite our philosophical differences with the Manager, the Council has maintained great respect for his integrity, his commitment to public service and his passion for improving municipal government. He's been a professional, a friend and a confidante.

George has agreed to assist with the transition process. Meanwhile, city management duties will be assigned to assistant city managers, Cathy Holdeman and Scott Moore.

We will begin a nationwide search for his successor as soon as possible. And information regarding an interim will be forthcoming. We'll take a few questions, but out of respect for the Manager and the Council we will not discuss details about this personnel issue.

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