



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Riverside City Manager Scott Barber Announces Intention to Retire

City's top administrator for three years to retire by end of 2014

RIVERSIDE, Calif. –Scott Barber, who has served as Riverside's City Manager for three years, today (9/10) announced his intention to retire at the end of the 2014.

Barber, who has more than 28 years of experience in local government, has been City Manager in Riverside since Dec. 6, 2011. He previously served as Riverside's first Community Development Director for six years.

“On behalf of the residents and businesses of Riverside, I want to thank Scott Barber for the last nine years of service to our community,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “Scott has been a focused and innovative City Manager and Community Development Director who always has looked for ways to improve the City where he lives and has raised a family. I wish him and his family all the best in his retirement.”

As City Manager, Barber oversaw the reorganization of City Hall as well as the development and implementation of three balanced budgets during the worst recession in more than 75 years. Under his leadership, the City saw the construction of the Iowa and Magnolia grade separations, the new Fire Station #1, the Riverside Convention Center and Bonaminio Park.

During this period, Riverside was named the Intelligent Community of the Year in 2012, the #1 Green Fleet in America, California's Building Department of the Year in 2013 and one of the coolest towns in America by Forbes Magazine in 2014.

As Community Development Director, Barber brought together the City's Planning, Building and Safety, and Code Enforcement functions into one cohesive department and immediately found success. That department created a National Best Practice in Code Enforcement with Riverside's Neglected Property Abatement Program; oversaw the completion of two neighborhood plans for the University and Eastside neighborhoods; and implemented one of California's first “Incentive Based Green Building Programs.”

Barber also led the effort to adopt a new General Plan, Zoning Code, Smart Growth guidelines and implementation matrix for Riverside's General Plan 2025, which won a Southern California Association of Governments "Compass Blueprint" award for excellence.

"First, I want to thank Scott for his service and leadership," Mayor Pro Tem Jim Perry said. "Second, I appreciate his acknowledgement of the current environment at City Hall and his offer to leave behind the issues of the past and move us all forward. Finally, it will be important that the City Council work quickly to identify an interim City Manager to manage the organization, while we focus on filling the vacancies in both the City Manager and City Attorney positions. I will begin to work right away with my Council colleagues on identifying and attracting an interim City Manager."