



CITY OF LAS VEGAS

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CITY OF LAS VEGAS "SPRING FORWARD AND MOVING AHEAD"

LAS VEGAS, NM – Ken Garcia and Phillip Mares were recommended for the positions of Utilities Director and Fire Chief by Mayor Tony E. Marquez Jr. during a meeting Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at Memorial Middle School. Garcia has been appointed by the governing body to serve as utilities director. Mares, a former fire chief with the city was appointed to serve as Fire Chief. Both positions are exempt positions with the city. Steve Tafoya served as interim position for the past few months. Mayor Marquez stated that he is thankful to have had Tafoya serve in that position for several months.

"I would like to personally thank Steve Tafoya for his willingness to serve as interim chief for the past few months," Marquez said.

Garcia served as interim city manager prior to his appointment to utilities director. Garcia, 43, is a native of Las Vegas and holds a bachelor's degree in both Biochemistry and Biology from the University of New Mexico. He has served as General Manager, President/CEO with Laguna Utility Authority, Assistant and Project Manager with Severn Trent Services – a utility management firm based in Houston, Texas and as a supervisor and manager in the city of Las Cruces.

"Ken has done a good job while serving as interim city manager for about a month," Marquez said. "His 18 plus years of experience and expertise in utilities administration and government knowledge are critical as we move the utilities department in a positive and new direction. The utilities department is crucial to my vision to **SPRING FORWARD AND MOVE AHEAD.**"

Marquez said, "Phillip Mares has lead and will now continue to lead the Las Vegas Fire Department in a positive and productive manner. His dedication to providing the city residents with a strong fire background is evident."

After his appointment Mares said, "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to return to fire service. We have a good bunch of men and women at the Las Vegas Fire Department."

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