



CITY OF STOCKTON NEWS RELEASE

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CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT ***Effective November 1, 2013***

(Stockton, CA) – Stockton City Manager Bob Deis, announced his impending retirement, to be effective November 1, 2013, after three years of steering Stockton through what may prove to be the most difficult period of its 163 year history.

“It’s been quite a ride,” Deis explained. “By November I will have accomplished what the City Council asked me to do when hired.”

Councilmember Kathy Miller recognized that Mr. Deis brought leadership, order and professionalism to the City of Stockton. “Bob has done everything we asked of him and a lot more. I think the City of Stockton now knows what good city management looks and feels like, and we deserve to continue it.”

By all accounts, Deis inherited a financial and organizational mess. “The Council knew something was amiss, but they didn’t realize just how bad it was,” said Deis. “The City was hurtling towards the financial cliff without a parachute. Since my arrival, we were able to balance extremely difficult budgets without laying off a single police officer, and we went

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from utter chaos to restoring order and implementing business plans.”

Before Deis leaves in November, he will work with the City Council to take up the matter of funding the Stockton Recovery Plan, which will include two parts. First, the Council will have a tax proposal before it that funds the City’s new Marshall Plan on Crime and its ultimate exit from bankruptcy. Second, it will have a Bankruptcy Plan of Adjustment to give the judge.

“If the City can sustain the effort outlined in the Marshall Plan, I can guarantee you the renaissance of Stockton will truly begin,” said Deis, who oversaw the development of the Marshall Plan on Crime.

“Bob has gone above and beyond the call of duty and put in place a new path for Stockton--one that includes the Marshall Plan on Crime, which will benefit generations to come,” said Councilmember Holman. “This has set the City and County on a new course of working together collectively and productively.”

Deis has earned the admiration and support of the City Council. From the moment he arrived in Stockton, he hit the ground running. Immediately upon his arrival he was thrown in the middle of a controversial ballot measure, which removed binding arbitration for union contracts. Deis recognized that the Fiscal Year 11-12 budget simply could not have been balanced without voter approval of Measure H.

That same year, he orchestrated the elimination of a \$37 million deficit, largely

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through compensation reductions city-wide and staffing reductions in the Fire Department. Later due to the threat of bankruptcy, unions ultimately agreed to most of the same reductions, but it did not come easily. The pinnacle of the fight was when the Police Officers Union bought the house next door to the City Manager and served his wife with a subpoena.

“Bob has brought a new level of transparency and City Council understanding of City finances, along with all the things that affect it,” said Vice Mayor Paul Canepa. “This crisis has been managed very openly and in a straightforward manner that has earned credibility with everyone.”

Bringing change to Stockton could not have been accomplished without change in leadership over many City departments. Deis has overseen the entire replacement of all his department heads. Many of these new department heads are enjoying City Council and community support. In addition, he initiated a management audit of the Permit Department that is leading to improvements in that area.

Deis is proud of the leadership team that he has put together and the changes implemented, thus far. “I think we now have the strongest group of department heads in the State of California. The community and the City Council need to embrace and encourage them to stay, because they all have options. They came here to make a difference. Stockton still suffers from special interests that are pursuing a course that will revert the City back to its past, a past that led to our bankruptcy. Because of this, there will be continued pressure on

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these department heads and my successor.

”Deis went on to say, “I will miss the wonderful people that supported me, and on a weekly basis, thanked me for my service to the community. I could not have survived without their support. I could not have done what we accomplished in such a short period of time without the solid support of the previous and current City Council.”

One of the new City Councilmembers, Michael Tubbs, said, “I wish I had more time to work with Bob, but the short time together was a great experience. He leaves with solid support by veteran and new Councilmembers alike.”

As the City Manager of Stockton, Deis has devoted all of his time and energy to getting Stockton’s fiscal house in order and addressing the crime issues that have plagued the City for generations. “After three years of non-stop crisis mode, full six-day workweeks and no vacations without bringing work with me, my wife said she wants her husband back. It has taken many years for me to realize, when your wife says something is really important, you respond with, “Yes, dear!” His devotion to family will take center stage in retirement. “I look forward to reconnecting with our grandkids and living a more balanced life.”

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