



E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR BEN ZAHN NAMES NEW CAO, DEPUTY CAO

Kenner, LA. – Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn announced that Deborah Foshee is the city's new Chief Administrative Officer and Kriss Fairbairn Fortunato is the new Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

Foshee is the former Jefferson Parish Attorney and City Attorney in Covington, while Fortunato previously managed the parish's Public Information Office and has 28 years of experience as a news anchor, reporter and producer in the television news industry.

"Both Deborah and Kriss bring years of experience and skillsets that will benefit Kenner tremendously," Zahn said. "They bring knowledge from three levels – the parish, state and federal – that will greatly benefit the city."

Foshee has extensive public service experience, beginning more than 20 years ago when she served as a commissioner on St. Tammany's Home Rule Charter Commission.

"I am truly honored to join the Zahn administration," she said. "If you have ever heard Mayor Ben Zahn describe his vision for Kenner, you know why I am excited to be part of his team."

Foshee, a lawyer who most recently worked as Deputy Regional Chief for the New Orleans Region of the Louisiana Department of Justice, is also a certified Fraud Examiner and a certified compliance and ethics professional.

Fortunato, who was the first civilian Public and Media Relations Specialist for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the state, is perhaps best known as a news anchor on WDSU-TV. She retired from the news industry in 2010 and served as spokesperson for Jefferson Parish government under former Parish President John Young. She then assisted Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser with his transition as Director of Communications and has most recently focused on her multi-media company, Fortunato Productions.

"I couldn't agree more with Ben that Kenner is poised to really take off in the next few years, and I'm excited to be a part of the team to help the city on that journey," she said.

Zahn said he believes previous Kenner mayors have laid a solid groundwork, and anticipates no wholesale changes in government during the next 18 months.

“Of course, I’m very familiar with the administration and city employees from my time as a District 3 councilman,” he said. “We have some excellent people working here, and that’s just one of the reasons I’m so optimistic for the future and excited to get to work.”

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