



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL SIGUR
ACTING MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR JOSE GONZALEZ LEAVING FOR JOB WITH JEFFERSON PARISH

Kenner, LA. – Kenner Public Works Director Jose Gonzalez will be leaving the city to take the same position in Jefferson Parish. His last day is Friday, Sept. 16.

Gonzalez was hired in 2010, just five days after retiring from Jefferson Parish, where he worked for 30 years. Gonzalez was hired in Jefferson Parish in 1981 as an engineer and worked his way up to become Public Works Director in 2004. Gonzalez briefly served as Chief Operating Officer of the parish after former Parish President Aaron Broussard and top aide Tim Whitmer resigned in the wake of an insurance scandal. Gonzalez was Jefferson's top official for five days.

"We will certainly miss the experience and dedication to the job that Jose provided each and every day," Acting Kenner Mayor Michael Sigur said. "He was certainly invaluable to me, as far as explaining the history behind certain projects and issues, and then using his expertise as an engineer to make important decisions on behalf of the city."

A replacement for Gonzalez will not immediately be hired so that whoever is elected the new mayor of Kenner can have input on that important choice. Sigur said Chief Administrative Officer Mike Quigley will be Interim Public Works Director in the meantime.

"Mike obviously knows Kenner extremely well and has worked closely with Jose for the past six years," Sigur said. "To make things easier on Mike, some of his CAO responsibilities will be handled by Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Maria Leon."

Jefferson Parish President Michael Yenni said Gonzalez was the perfect choice, once Jefferson Public Works Director Kazem Alikhani decided to retire.

"I hired Jose for his expertise and willingness to be creative," Yenni said. "His experience and skill helped Kenner secure over \$100 million in infrastructure improvements. I trust his judgment. I am impressed by his work ethic. He will be a strong asset to the entire parish."

Gonzalez, meanwhile, said he will miss his colleagues in Kenner, but is confident in Quigley, Assistant Director Bill Duplaisir and a department filled with knowledgeable and hard-working employees.

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“My decision to leave was a very difficult one. My heart is full of appreciation for all those who have supported my staff and me over the years. It has been a great honor to have been able to serve the Administration, Council and residents of our wonderful city where my family has resided for the past 37 years. I have enjoyed working with a great team. I will remember all my colleagues in Kenner with great fondness and respect.

I am extremely proud of our department's accomplishments over the past few years. I am very confident that Quigley, Assistant Director Bill Duplaisir and Executive Coordinator Christine Calamari, along with a knowledgeable and hard-working staff, will continue to do great things in Kenner.

I look forward to working with Parish President Michael Yenni once again and assist him with his vision of moving the Parish forward,” Gonzalez said.

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