



City Manager Jarel LaPan Hill Stepping Down in January

Mayor Webber to Nominate John Blair for City Council Approval to Assume the Position

November 23, 2021 – Mayor Alan Webber announced today that City Manager Jarel LaPan Hill plans to step down from her position in January. At the Governing Body meeting January 12, 2021, Mayor Webber intends to nominate John Blair to take over the role.

Originally hired as Mayor Webber’s Chief of Staff, LaPan Hill was appointed City Manager in January of 2020. Her tenure is bookended by the onset of the COVID pandemic and the conclusion of Mayor Webber’s first term in office.

Among LaPan Hill’s distinguished accomplishments in the role:

- Longest-serving female City Manager, at 2.5 years (5 months interim, 2 years official);
- Managed City government through COVID, keeping residents and employees as safe as possible while delivering services and maintaining operations;
- Successfully implemented City government reorganization, which created the Community Development, Community Health and Safety and City Clerk/Community Engagement Departments, resulting in more nimble and efficient operations and services.

Jarel LaPan Hill says: “It’s been an honor to serve the City of Santa Fe in the Webber administration, and I’m super proud of our entire City team and its many accomplishments. It’s been a wild four years. I feel like I’ve just run through the tape at a marathon, and it’s a natural time to pass the baton to someone with fresh legs.”

Mayor Alan Webber says: “Jarel led the City through all the unprecedented challenges COVID brought our way. She leaves City government in better shape than when she took over. She has our respect, our gratitude, and all of our support as she takes her next steps.”

Mayor Webber’s next candidate for the job, John Blair, has served Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham as the Deputy Superintendent, New Mexico Regulation & Licensing Department; worked with Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver as the Deputy Secretary of State and Chief of Staff; and served former President Barack Obama as Director of Intergovernmental & External Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior. He’s a graduate of Santa Fe High and the UNM Law School.

Mayor Webber says: “John is excited about the job and eager to take on the responsibility of building on the work of the last four years. Like Jarel, John is from Santa Fe and is deeply connected to all parts of our community. He knows our culture, our strengths, and our challenges; he values public service and values the people who work in City government; and he knows how government can guide our community to a better future.”

The City Manager is responsible for all day-to-day operations of the City government and provides executive-level leadership to some 1,200 City employees. The position is responsible for the planning, implementation, and oversight of policy decisions made by the Mayor and City Councilors. The City Manager provides complex administrative support for the City and is accountable for the City’s fiscal health and is responsible for effectively communicating policy, programs, and initiatives.