



Larry Gordon

State Official Resigns for Position With City

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SANTA FE - Larry J. Gordon, hailed as "an innovative leader in his field." is resigning as deputy secretary of the state Health and Environment Department to become the new \$41,000-a-year director of the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department, according to a joint announcement Friday.

In taking the job, the 55-year-old Gordon returns to the department he created in 1955 and headed until 1968. He will leave his state post on July 30, and will replace Pat Kneafsey, the current EHD director, who retires Aug. 5.

Gordon said he will assess the department before commenting on what policy and administrative changes, if any, he will make. But Gordon's new boss, Albuquerque Chief Administrative Officer Frank Kleinhenz, said the new director will immediately face several challenges in the city's desire to coordinate the functions within the Air Quality Division and consolidate the services in the animal control divisions.

"We're fragmented. We're spread out," Kleinhenz said. "Larry will have to deal with the continuing activity we're facing in terms of growth, and the department has to keep up with that growth."

Kleinhenz said Gordon was one of four candidates interviewed for the city job. "We're delighted to have him back;" he said.

Kleinhenz and Gordon's current boss, HED Secretary George Goldstein, announced Gordon's resignation and hiring. Gordon, an Albuquerque resident the last 27 years, will take a \$3,000-a-year pay cut.

"After 14 years of commuting, I'm ready to do without it," Gordon said. "That gradually builds up, the absolute wasted time of commuting."

Gov. Bruce King, expressing regret that Gordon is leaving state government, called him "one of the most respected managers and innovators in the field of public health in this country."

Gordon has worked 32 years for state government and the city of Albuquerque. Before his first tenure with the city, he was with the then-state Department of Public Health from 1950 to 1955.

In 1968, he was director of the state Environmental Services Division of the state Health and Social Services Department. In 1971, he was named director of the state Environmental

Improvement Agency, and he served as director of the New Mexico Scientific Laboratory in 1973.

Gordon was instrumental in developing legislation that created the Bernalillo County health code, the Albuquerque health ordinance, the New Mexico Air Quality Act, the New Mexico Water Quality Act and the New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Act.