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Desert Hot Springs City Manager Rick Daniels to resign

Daniels offered city manager job in Needles



DESERT HOT SPRINGS — City Manager Rick Daniels plans to resign his position, according to a letter obtained Wednesday by The Desert Sun.

Daniels wrote [the one-page letter](#) July 24 to Mayor Yvonne Parks, one day after he was offered the city manager position in Needles.

“This letter is to notify you that I will be leaving the city in early September to pursue other opportunities in either the private or (sic) public sector,” Daniels wrote.

Daniels concluded his one-page letter with a note that he is leaving “with mixed emotions” after six years as city manager. His contract, which calls for a base salary of \$217,000 was set to expire in 2014.

Desert Hot Springs City Manager Rick Daniels is seen at a 2011 council meeting. / Desert Sun file photo

“I have been fortunate, honored and humbled to have served the good and decent people of Desert Hot Springs and their City Council. I will work with you to assure a smooth transition,” he concluded.

Daniels was offered the position of city manager in Needles on July 23, City Clerk Dale Jones told The Desert Sun on Wednesday. Needles is a city of under 5,000 people in San Bernardino County and near the border of Arizona.

The offer is still pending, she said. She did not know how much the salary offer was, saying it was “pending final contract negotiations.”

Desert Hot Springs City Attorney Steve Quintanilla, who said he was first notified about the letter on Wednesday afternoon, said Daniels refers all questions to the mayor.

Parks called Daniels’ departure a loss to Desert Hot Springs.

“I can’t blame him for wanting to leave, considering the treatment he’s been given by a couple of councilmen,” Parks told The Desert Sun.

The letter comes shortly after Daniels was announced a [finalist for a county administrator position](#) in Oregon.

Daniels in October [filed complaints](#) that two council members create a “hostile” workplace through “bullying.”

Daniels claims councilmen Russell Betts and Adam Sanchez regularly contact him in the middle of the night, violate ordinances and conduct other “bullying and abhorrent behavior.”

They deny the claims.

As of February, Desert Hot Springs has been billed at least \$77,470 to have a San Francisco-based attorney investigate the city manager’s claims.

FULL TEXT: [Rick Daniels resignation letter](#) | [Rick Daniels contract with Desert Hot Springs](#)

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