



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2008

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City Clerk LaVonne Harkless Announces Retirement Plans

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. -- LaVonne Harkless, city clerk for the City of Newport Beach, has announced that she will retire on November 18.

"LaVonne is the consummate, professional city clerk," said Mayor Ed Selich. "Her department is well organized. She oversaw many improvements in the City Clerk's Office and is responsible for many innovations. Her replacement will have a high standard to live up to. I wish LaVonne well in her retirement."

Newport Beach hired Harkless in January 1996. During her tenure with the city, she has led her department through a series of projects designed to provide citizens with easier access to local government information. An advocate for the complete automation of the City Clerk's Office, Harkless played an integral role in introducing document imaging and providing online access to city records including City Council agenda packets, the city municipal code, and ordinances and records dating back to 1906. In addition, citizens can now apply online for an appointive position or watch Council meetings using video streaming technology.

"I'm looking forward to enjoying my retirement, but will miss the daily interaction with the City Council, staff and residents of Newport Beach," Harkless said. "I will look back on my time here with fond memories."

Harkless and her husband plan to move back to their home state of South Dakota where they recently built a log home on a three-acre parcel in the northern Black Hills, near the City of Spearfish.

It is anticipated that the City Council will begin the recruitment process for a new city clerk later this month.