



City of Duluth Communications Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, contact Mayor Don Ness at (218) 724-4184 or Dave Montgomery, (218) 393-3847

Montgomery named Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

David Montgomery has been appointed Chief Administrative Officer replacing Michael Ashcraft.

“Dave Montgomery is the right person for the job. I have been impressed with his leadership, his organizational instincts, and his straight-forward, action-oriented approach,” said Mayor Ness. “Dave has quickly gained the confidence of those in City Hall and I’ve been impressed with his ability to quickly get up to speed on complex policy matters.”

Montgomery has served for the past two months as the City’s first CFO after having spent his career in private sector finance.

“I have very high expectations of the CAO. Having worked with Dave as our CFO for the past two months, I am absolutely convinced that he will meet those expectations and will provide strong and steady leadership on behalf of city operations,” said Mayor Ness.

Michael Ashcraft and David Montgomery started on the same day two months ago. Mr. Ashcraft has been given notice of dismissal. There was common understanding between Mr. Ashcraft and the city’s leadership that things were not progressing as expected.

Mr. Ashcraft was very gracious in his statement:

“I enjoyed my time in Duluth. It is a beautiful community, and I am impressed by the dedication of the city staff and elected officials. Unfortunately, it was not the right fit and I understand the decision to go a different direction. I will think fondly upon my time in Duluth. I wish the Mayor, Council and City staff the best in their efforts,” said Michael Ashcraft.

“I like Michael, he is a good person with a good heart and I’m very disappointed that it didn’t work out. We wish Michael the very best and we thank him for his contributions,” said Mayor Ness. “I take responsibility for the decision to hire Mr. Ashcraft. Based upon his interview and the strengths of his references, I thought he would be a good fit for Duluth. Unfortunately, for the benefit of the organization, a change had to be made.”

Both the appointment of Mr. Montgomery and the removal of Mr. Ashcraft will require Council action at their July 27th meeting. Mayor Ness and Mr. Montgomery will be available for comment on Sunday and Monday.

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