



Lakewood
Colorado

To: All Employees

Subject: the lifeguard....

After more than 46 years with the City of Lakewood, I've decided it's time to hang up my whistle and step away from the pool. I will be retiring as City Manager in the summer of 2026.

It's hard to believe that my journey with Lakewood began standing watch as a Morse Park lifeguard all those years ago. Back then, my focus was keeping an eye on the deep end, making sure everyone stayed safe and confident in the water. Over the decades, not much has changed, I've just moved from the pool to city hall, but the heart of the job has remained the same: protecting this community, supporting our team, and helping Lakewood stay afloat and move forward.

The true strength of Lakewood isn't found in its buildings, parks, or programs, but in the incredible people who make it all happen. I've been fortunate to swim alongside some of the most talented, dedicated, passionate, and capable people you could ever hope to meet; nothing short of extraordinary. Together, we've navigated rough currents and calm waters alike, always keeping our eyes on what matters most: serving the people of Lakewood with integrity, creativity, and compassion.

This City has shaped who I am. It's been my second home, my lifelong pool of purpose. And while it's time for me to begin a new chapter, the ripples of these years – the friendships, the lessons, the laughter – will stay with me forever.

As Lakewood's City Manager for almost 18 years, I've managed to tread water with a great many elected officials. I've worked under 3 mayors and numerous city council members. The experiences have been both invigorating and sometimes exhausting, and together we have accomplished a great deal. There is nothing more interesting than experiencing local government in action. I will surely miss it all.

It's the people – Lakewood employees, elected officials, community partners, and Lakewood residents make it very hard to leave. I care for the people deeply. Although it has been a tough decision, I am confident it is the right one, and I know the city is postured to thrive. Additional information will be forthcoming regarding transition plans and other specific details.

Thank you for trusting me to lead, for believing in our shared vision, and for making this journey one I'll never forget. I'm proud of where we've been and excited to see where we'll go next. I'll always be cheering for Lakewood from the deck.

Kathy