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**Davis County Leader Wilford Sommerkorn Tapped by Mayor Ralph Becker as
New Director of Salt Lake City Planning Department**

SALT LAKE CITY – After a nationwide search, Mayor Ralph Becker announced today the appointment of award-winning professional planner Wilford Sommerkorn as the new Planning Director for Salt Lake City. Sommerkorn has served as the Director of the Davis County Department of Community & Economic Development since 1994, where he worked in various roles for more than 27 years.

Mayor Ralph Becker remarked, “Wilf Sommerkorn brings the expertise, experience, and well-deserved respect from planners in Utah and nationally. He completes a leadership team at our Department of Community and Economic Development that will provide superb guidance to achieve Salt Lake City’s potential as a great American City.”

“I’m looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities that will come with working in Utah’s Capital City,” said Sommerkorn “Throughout the interview process, I was very impressed with the high caliber of staff and the widespread enthusiasm throughout the City for improving the Salt Lake City Planning Division.”

Sommerkorn has had a long and distinguished career in urban planning which has included work for the Transportation Research Center at the University of Tennessee, Centerville City, the Wasatch Front Regional Council and the Davis County Council of Governments.

Sommerkorn, who was raised in Salt Lake City, earned a Master of Science Planning (MSP) from the Graduate School of Planning at the University of Tennessee Knoxville and an undergraduate degree in Physical Geography from the University of Utah.

He has been active in professional planning organizations including the American Planning Association, Urban Land Institute, Utah Economic Development Alliance and the Alliance for Regional Stewardship.

Locally, Sommerkorn has also been active in Envision Utah, the Utah Quality Growth Commission, and the Davis COG Transportation Task Force.

Sommerkorn will assume his new position on August 25, 2008. Photo available upon request.

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