

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Becker Forwards Recommendation to City Council on Leonardo Today

Salt Lake City – Mayor Ralph Becker today transmitted a recommendation to the City Council regarding the future of The Leonardo. Following an extensive review of The Leonardo’s business plan, the Becker Administration recommends the Council approve the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds to pay for \$10.2 million worth of renovations to the Old Main Library and authorize the Administration to enter into a lease agreement with The Leonardo.

At the request of the City Council, the Administration spent the past six months analyzing The Leonardo’s revised business plan to determine the financial and organizational viability of The Leonardo. The Administration also enlisted an expert in the area of science museum management, Raylene Decatur of Decatur and Company LLC, to assist with the analysis.

In an interim report issued this week, Decatur explained, “The Leonardo has weathered a long and challenging path as a start-up organization. Based on the information I have today, the organization is poised for success at a level unimaginable twelve months ago. The new management, renewed Board, program plan, and business plan are all key elements bringing confidence to future outcomes for this organization.”

As part of her review of The Leonardo, Decatur extensively reviewed numerous documents associated with the Leonardo, including the business plan, and conducted interviews with seven members of the Leonardo Board, Peter Giles, Executive Director of the Leonardo, and a number of other individuals directly involved in the science and culture center.

Regarding today’s transmittal, Mayor Becker remarked, “I believe our team has done an extensive review of both The Leonardo’s business plan and building renovation plan, and we have arrived at the most appropriate recommendation. I look forward to meeting with members of the City Council to discuss this recommendation in greater detail in order to jointly arrive at the best decision for Salt Lake City.

“I appreciate all of the hard work, good will and effort City staff and representatives of The Leonardo have exhibited during this process,” concluded Becker.

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