

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2009

Contact: David Everitt

Cell: 801-865-1260

Mayor Becker Announces New Staff Appointments in Mayor's Office

Becker Names Helen Langan Senior Advisor to the Mayor

and Marla Kennedy Deputy Communications Director

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker announced two new staff appointments in the Mayor's Office today. Mayor Becker has appointed Helen Langan to his executive staff as Senior Advisor to the Mayor. Langan has served as Mayor Becker's Deputy Communications Director since he took office. Previously Langan worked at the White House, in the U.S. Congress, and at Westminster College in an array of strategic communications positions. The role of Deputy Communications Director will be filled by Marla Kennedy, a seasoned communications professional who brings more than a decade of public and community relations experience to the Mayor's Office.

As Senior Advisor to the Mayor, Langan will be responsible for strategic policy development, community matters and other priorities of the Mayor's Office. Langan will work on behalf of Mayor Becker and will directly advise him on issues and key initiatives.

As Deputy Communications Director, Kennedy will oversee media relations efforts and act as Public Information Officer for the Mayor's Office. Kennedy will serve under Communications Director Karen Hale and will be working with Hale on a variety of communications and community affairs outreach efforts.

Helen Langan Biography

Helen Langan has served in a variety of strategic communications roles for more than a decade. During her time in the Becker Administration, she has played an advisory role on numerous projects and policy matters in addition to handling public relations. Prior to joining the Becker Administration, Langan advised the President of Westminster College on a long range strategic plan and served as media spokesperson for the college from 2002-2007. Langan worked in the White House Press Office during the Clinton Administration and later for U.S. Congressman Bernie Sanders (I-VT). Langan has also consulted with numerous corporate clients throughout her career.

From 2004-08, Langan was elected to serve as Utah's Democratic National Committeewoman where she represented Utah at DNC meetings across the U.S. Her personal and political pursuits have been the subject of national and regional media coverage, including appearances on National Public Radio, Good Morning America and articles in Glamour Magazine, USA Today and The New York Times. Langan currently serves on the Sundance Film Institute Government Relations Board. Langan studied in the MPA program at the University of Utah and completed a

Master of Professional Communication degree from Westminster College. She regularly teaches strategic communications courses to undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Utah and Westminster College as an adjunct professor.

Marla Kennedy Biography

Marla Kennedy has an extensive communications and public policy background along with experience in coalition building, public advocacy, and strategic planning. Kennedy most recently worked as a consultant for The Exoro Group in Salt Lake City. She served as the Senior Accreditation Coordinator for the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics and at the international level as Head of Accreditation for the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

Kennedy 's professional experience includes work on numerous campaigns, most notably as the Campaign Manager for Bill Orton for Governor in 2000, Finance Director for Donald Dunn in his bid for the 3rd Congressional District in 2000 and as Finance and Message Director for Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, as well as numerous ballot initiatives. Kennedy has also worked in the non-profit arena where she served as Executive Director of the Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah (GVPC). During her tenure with GVPC, Marla was named as one of the "10 Women Sure to Change Utah" by Salt Lake Magazine. Kennedy holds a BS degree in Political Science from the University of Utah.

###