



## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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### ***CITY ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF JAMES BAKER AS PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR***

#### **For Immediate Release**

***June 21, 2016, Kalamazoo, Michigan*** – Today Kalamazoo City Manager Jim Ritsema announced that he has appointed James Baker as Public Services Director for the City of Kalamazoo. Mr. Baker had been Interim Public Services Director since the end of March, after the departure of the department's former director.

City officials also announced that Interim Public Services Deputy Director Teresa Johnson has been named Deputy Director.

Mr. Baker holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Western Michigan University and has over 14 years of direct municipal experience in water resources, project management, and plant operations. He has previously been employed as the Clean Water Plant Director for the City of Three Rivers, a consulting engineer for Wightman & Associates and Jones & Henry Engineers, LTD, and a Plant Operator for the City of Battle Creek. Mr. Baker is a registered professional engineer licensed in the State of Michigan, a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) ABCD Licensed Wastewater Operator, an MDEQ Licensed Water Supply and Distribution Operator, and a MDEQ Licensed Stormwater Inspector. Additionally, he is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), a former Vice President of the Southwest Michigan Chapter of ASCE, and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served as a Sergeant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division which provides combat essential engineering services such as water source identification, water purification, mobile electric power generation, and logistical deployment planning.

"I look forward to the continued work he and his team will be doing to move the Public Services Department forward, using the principles of the High Performing Organization model adopted for the City," said City Manager Jim Ritsema.

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