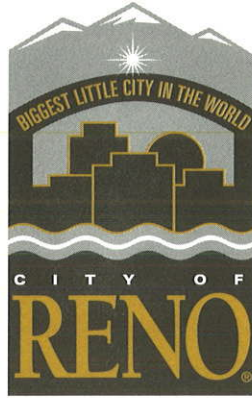


**Robert A. Cashell, Sr.**

*Mayor*

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*"The most livable of Nevada cities;  
the focus of culture, commerce and  
tourism in Northern Nevada."*

February 22, 2012

To Whom It May Concern;

I am pleased to be able to write this letter of recommendation for Kevin Knutson. I have known Kevin since he came to work for the City of Reno in January 2008 and have enjoyed getting to know him over the last four years.


As the Mayor of the City of Reno, former Lt. Governor of the State of Nevada, and former Chair of the University of Nevada System Board of Regents, I have had the good fortune to work with many remarkable public servants, and Kevin surely ranks among the best. His ability to lead and motivate staff, his unimpeachable ethics, his outstanding ability to communicate clearly, and his skill in calmly solving conflicts mark him as a leader of the highest caliber.

I asked Kevin to serve as interim City Manager and Redevelopment Agency Executive Director during a very difficult period for the City, a decision that was unanimously supported by the rest of the City Council. I was impressed by his willingness to accept responsibility without any gain and by how confidently he took on that role. He worked tirelessly to set a realistic budget that set the City on a path toward financial stability, brought contentious labor negotiations to a mutually satisfactory conclusion, and created a successful plan to avoid a State takeover of the City's finances. He was a steady hand on the City's helm, helping staff and residents alike have confidence in our ability to overcome the challenges we faced.

You'll find that his diverse background and commitment to continuous self-improvement make him knowledgeable about all aspects of municipal government; and yet he still retains the flexibility, imagination, and innovative spirit of an entrepreneur.

Based on my time working with Kevin, I can unreservedly recommend him as a City Manager or other senior leader.

Sincerely,

  
Robert A. Cashell, Sr.  
Mayor