


CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Office of the Mayor

Mayor Timothy M. Keller

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

August 8, 2022

TO: Isaac Benton, Council President
FROM: Timothy M. Keller 
SUBJECT: Appointment of Lawrence Rael, MPA, to the position of Chief Administrative Officer

Pursuant to Section 4 (d) of Article 5 of the City Charter, I am submitting for your advice and consent the name of Lawrence Rael for the position of Chief Administrative Officer effective August 16, 2022.

Mr. Rael has served for four years as the Chief Operations Officer, working to ensure efficient and effective delivery of City services across several departments. In 1987, he began working as a Legislative Assistant in Senator Jeff Bingaman's office in Washington, D.C., focusing on transportation, housing, small businesses, appropriations, public works, economic development, US Border issues, Indian and Hispanic issues, and special projects. Mr. Rael returned to New Mexico in 1990 and worked first as the Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and then later as the CAO of the City of Albuquerque. Having served under three mayors, Mr. Rael is the longest-serving individual to hold this position.

In 2001, he became the Executive Director of the Mid Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), representing Bernalillo, Valencia, Tarrant, and Sandoval Counties in the areas of regional transportation, agriculture, workforce development, employment growth, land-use, water, and economic development.

Lawrence is a lifelong New Mexican. He was born in Santa Fe and raised on a small family farm in the rural town of Sile, New Mexico. He is a graduate of Bernalillo High school and earned his bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of

New Mexico. He later earned a master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Public Finance from UNM.

I ask for your support in appointing this highly qualified individual to the position of Chief Operations Officer

Lawrence Rael

Experience

Chief Operations Officer, City of Albuquerque

Albuquerque, NM

- Responsible for overseeing all day-to-day operations of city operational departments to manage city operations.
- Evaluated performance of Department Directors to ensure staff is meeting the objectives of the administration.
- Managed departments with enterprise funds, including Aviation, Solid Waste, and Transit.
- Executed agreements on behalf of the city with all public and private entities.
- Represented Mayor/city on various state boards and federal governmental panels.
- Prepared budgets for City Council approval, including those for the implementation of various city and community programs.

Presidential Appointment USDA/FSA

Albuquerque, NM

State Executive Director USDA Farm Service Agency - NM (GS15)

- Managed and administered all USDA federal farm programs in New Mexico. Worked with farmers and ranchers across the state on agricultural related issues such as crop production, livestock development and water resource preservation.
- Managed 26 field offices statewide with an operating budget of \$9 million dollars and approximately 80 employees.
- Oversaw program related support payments of \$100 million state wide. Responsible for coordinating with all federal and state agencies on agricultural and water related issues.

Consultant

Albuquerque, NM

- Managed real estate and operating investments, including strategy, finance, and management activities.
- Specialized in economic development projects.
- Partner/co-manager of business center, retail enterprise and industrial parks.

Executive Director, Mid Region Council of Governments

Albuquerque, NM

- Responsible for the development of the comprehensive planning and development programs for 27 local governments within the region.
- Administer a wide variety of special programs dealing with regional community issues.
- Guide the Board of Directors in developing policies for member local governments to address complex issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries. Developed and managed the largest transit project in New Mexico. The New Mexico Rail Runner Express was the fastest startup commuter rail system in the country, valued at 400million.
- Administered the Central New Mexico Workforce training programs in four counties. A total budget of 6.5million dollars serving young adults and displaced workers in Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia and Tarrant counties.

Chief Administrative Officer, City of Albuquerque

Albuquerque, NM

- Managed day-to-day operations for city government. Supervised 18 city departments with over 7000 employees and a total annual budget of over \$600 Million.
- Responsible for the cooperative development of policy and executive legislative initiatives for Mayoral and City Council approval. Required ability to negotiate with the governing board regarding policy development and direction.
- Directly administered state and federal legislative and other governmental activities on behalf of the city. Represented the city before federal agencies, state agencies, legislative bodies, and Congress.
- Managed intergovernmental relations for the city (Council of Governments, TVI, MRGCD, County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico, etc.)
- Directed all labor organizations for 6 union groups and a professional association.
- Directly responsible for the administration of the employee Merit System Ordinance.
- Formulated, directed and managed city department activities as they relate to workforce development and policies associated with the Private Industry Council (JTPA), and the Albuquerque Business and Education Compact.
- Negotiated and directed the issuance of Industrial Revenue Bonds for economic development.
- Managed the formulation of the city's annual budget and biannual capital improvement programs, which included representing the city before the various bond rating agencies and other financial institutions.
- Held managerial authority over all federal grants, including Job Training Partnership Act, Community Development Block Grants, and Early Child Development Grant programs

Deputy/Acting Chief Administrative Officer/Exec. Assistant to the CAO & Mayor, City of Albuquerque

- Served as liaison between administration and City Council and Congressional delegation.
- Responsible for policy and legislative analysis.
- Assisted CAO with day-to-day operations of city government including budget and policy review, contract analysis and personnel management.
- Served as Mayor's representative to various governmental bodies and community organizations.
- Chaired City's claims review board responsible for reviewing litigation and directing City Attorney's Office for settlements for court or litigation.
- Served on various city task forces and represented city to state and federal government agencies.
- Coordinated City of Albuquerque social services programs, including responsibility for the Private Industry Council and APS educational programs.

Legislative Assistant to Senator Jeff Bingaman, U.S. Senate

Washington, DC

- Responsible for policy analysis, research and legislative tracking.
- Responsible for the following issues: Transportation, Housing, Small Business, Appropriations, Public Works, Economic Development, US Mexico Border Issues, Indian and Hispanic Issues, and special projects. Assisted legislative efforts pertaining to labor and education.
- Represented Senator to state and local elected officials, constituents and lobbyists.
- Served as key staffer to New Mexico Delegation Office and staff coordinator for the Senate Democratic Task Force on Hispanic Issues. Coordinated 10 Senate offices for the development of national legislative agenda and advisory council.
- Volunteered for organizing campaign related research, events, and represented Senator in debates/forums.
- Position required public speaking, knowledge of state and national legislative processes, and expertise in state economic, political and business issues.

Education

BA, Sociology 1981, University of New Mexico

M.P.A. 1986 (Concentration in Public Finance), University of New Mexico

Senior Executive Program, JFK School of Government, Harvard University, 1991.

Additional Community and Leadership Experience

Vice Chair, **NM** Land Conservancy

President, Governing Council, Montessori of the Rio Grande Charter School

President, New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce

Leadership New Mexico and Leadership Albuquerque Graduate International

City Manager's Association

President, New Mexico City Manager's Association

Board of Directors, **New Mexico** Municipal League

Outstanding Public Service Administrator Award, NM Society of Public Administrators Executive

Board, Albuquerque Convention and Visitors' Bureau

Sister Cities International Ambassadors Program

Large City Executive Forum and International City Managers Association New

Mexico Supervisors and Professionals Association

Resource Cities Program for U.S. AID (Consultant to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala) Regional

Council of Governments, Executive Board

Urban Transportation and Policy Planning Board City

of Albuquerque Housing Advisory Board Carrie

Tingley Hospital Foundation Board

Next Generation Economy Initiative-Advisory Board