



# NEWS RELEASE

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**VICTOR MERCADO TO PURSUE NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES;  
ENJOYED HELPING MAYOR KILPATRICK CREATE NEXT DETROIT**  
*Mayor Kilpatrick says naming replacement "can not be a knee-jerk reaction"*

**DETROIT, May 7, 2008**—Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick and Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD) Director Victor Mercado today formally announced Mercado will end his tenure with DWSD this summer to pursue other career opportunities. Mercado's last day on the job will be June 20.

"We did a national search six years ago to find the right person and Victor proved to us that he was the right guy for the job," said Mayor Kilpatrick. "He is a talented water system professional and his leadership of the department will be missed."

One of Mayor Kilpatrick's first orders of business when he took office in 2002 was to find a person capable of handling the day-to-day operations of the third largest municipally owned and operated water and sewerage system in the Country.

Speaking about Mercado's ability to run DWSD Mayor Kilpatrick said, "Over the last six years he effectively implemented best business practices and set department benchmarks which resulted in more efficient service and improved relationships with our regional water customers."

As for his time as the Director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, Mercado had this to say, "Mayor Kilpatrick brought me here to help him create a more efficient and cost effective water department for the citizens of Detroit; and I believe we've been very successful in a short amount of time. I have enjoyed working for the Kilpatrick Administration and believe the Mayor is on the right track to creating the NEXT Detroit. I am honored to have been a part of Detroit's rebirth."

Mercado's replacement has yet to be named and a timeline for naming a new director was not released.

"Naming a replacement can not be knee-jerk reaction," Mayor Kilpatrick said. "We will complete the necessary due diligence to ensure we fill that position with someone who can continue the tremendous progress we've already made."

Key DWSD accomplishments over the last six years with Mercado as the Director include:

- 2003 opening of DWSD's state of the art Water Works Park Water Treatment Plant capable of producing 240 million gallons per day of ozone disinfected drinking water
- Elimination of 600 vacant, budgeted Department positions
- Downsizing of the Department's vehicle fleet
- Implementation of key performance measures to ensure manager and employee budget and work performance accountability
- Downsizing of the DWSD overtime budget and implementation of repair priorities to better utilize employee skills and scheduling
- Holding the DWSD operations and maintenance budget within a 2% increase of authorized 2002-2003 levels
- Inaugurating a regional wholesale customer partnering and information relationship resulting in the development of model water and sewer contracts
- Minimizing water and sewer rate increases and holding them at single digit numbers. In his first year, DWSD was able to hold increases to 9% versus the 14%-16% originally predicted
- Announcement of the Flint and North Oakland Transmission construction projects to build a second waterline to Flint and provide redundancy and improved service to the northern end of the eight county DWSD water system. This is the largest DWSD construction endeavor in decades

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