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HALLANDALE BEACH

## Hallandale Beach city manager may lose job over poor attendance

After frequent absences from work, City Manager Mike Good is on the road to being fired from the job he has held since 2002.

BY JENNIFER GOLLAN  
SUN-SENTINEL

Longtime Hallandale Beach City Manager Mike Good has been suspended, and is on his way to being fired, after he has failed to show up for work off and on since January.

City commissioners cited chronic absences, an uncommunicative work style and questionable contracts as reasons to fire him.

“It is long overdue,” Commissioner Keith London said Thursday. “The untold secret all around town is that guy does not show up for work.”

Indeed, Mayor Joy Cooper said Good's ouster was delayed because he refused to schedule it for the commission to discuss over the past six weeks.

Good, 48, could not be reached for comment.

City commissioners Wednesday night suspended Good for 45 days. He has five days to request a public hearing to appeal the decision. If he does not respond, the commission is likely to move to officially fire Good in the next 30 days.

Assistant City Manager Mark Antonio was named interim city manager. The city is working out how much he will be paid as part of a new contract.

Good joined the city in March 1985 as a welder and rose through the ranks, becoming city manager in November 2002. His total compensation last year for salary, pension, health benefits and other insurance and car allowance was roughly \$275,139.

He drew stiff criticism in December 2008 when he grossed \$422,373 in salary and benefits. That sum included \$176,054 in accrued vacation and sick time he collected after he resigned, only to be rehired days later. At the time, the city reasoned it would save money by halting contributions to his pension plan, which promised retirees a set benefit.

Commissioners Wednesday offered Good five months of severance worth roughly \$88,547. He is also entitled to health insurance for him and his family until he is eligible for Medicare at age 62, and tuition and books so he can complete his master's degree in public administration. The severance package is worth about \$306,893, according to the city.

Good is not owed any money for unused sick and vacation time, Antonio said, adding that it was not clear how many unpaid days Good took.

The deal is still pending Good's approval. Cooper said Good stopped consistently turning up for work in January and then took family medical leave for two weeks, using sick and vacation time. His attendance

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failed to improve, leading commissioners to take preliminary steps to fire him Wednesday.

London said he was also troubled by some of Good's actions. For example, he said Good approved a yearlong contract worth at least \$36,000 with consultant Joseph Kessel but failed to inform the commission. City rules require the city manager to report such expenditures to commissioners each month.

“The city manager's obligation is to report to us when he uses his spending authority,” London said. “He is breaking the city ordinance. This is city taxpayer money.”

The July 2008 contract calls for Kessel, a real estate agent with Keller Williams, to assist the city manager with finances, public relations, growth management and strategic planning. London said he had asked Good for documents showing how much Kessel had earned, but never received them.



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