CITY OF Anniston ALABAMA

OFFICE OF THE ANNISTON CITY COUNCIL

ANNISTON CITY COUNCIL

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March 11, 2026

At its 9:00 AM CT called meeting, the Anniston City Council, by a vote of 5–0, acknowledged and accepted the resignation of City Manager Kenneth Free and expressed appreciation for his service to the City of Anniston. During his time with the City, Mr. Free worked alongside City staff and leadership to support the daily operations of municipal government and the services provided to our residents. The Council thanks him for his contributions and wishes him success in his future endeavors.

To ensure continuity of operations and stability in city government, the **Anniston City Council has appointed Anniston Police Department Captain, Matthew Caballero, to serve as Interim City Manager**.

Captain Caballero brings more than two decades of public service to this role and has developed extensive experience working across departments and alongside city leadership to address complex operational challenges. His deep institutional knowledge of the City of Anniston and his longstanding commitment to public service position him well to help guide the organization during this transitional period.

Caballero has served with the Anniston Police Department for more than 22 years and currently serves as the Uniform Patrol Division Commander, where he oversees the department's largest division and supervises more than 40 officers. Throughout his career, he has held several leadership roles including Investigative Division Commander, Special Operations Lieutenant, Patrol Lieutenant, and Training and Inspections Sergeant. In these positions, he has worked closely with city administration and department leaders while managing major operations, investigations, and personnel.

In addition to his professional experience, Caballero holds a Juris Doctor from Faulkner University's Jones School of Law and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Faulkner University. Caballero and his wife, Claire Starling Caballero, have lived in Anniston for more than 22 years and are proud to call this community home. They have two children, Olivia (22) and Ian (20).

While Captain Caballero will provide leadership during the interim period, the Anniston City Council is committed to conducting a comprehensive and deliberate process to identify the city's next permanent City Manager. In the coming weeks, the Council will begin working with a nationally recognized municipal executive search firm that specializes in recruiting experienced local government leaders. This firm will assist the city in conducting a nationwide search to identify highly qualified candidates with the experience, vision, and leadership ability necessary to guide Anniston into the future.

We look forward to continuing the important work of serving the residents of Anniston.

Thank you,

Mayor Ciara Smith-Roston