

Mr. Young is CB&A's placement in Greensboro, N.C.

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Dayton business leaders react to city manager's possible departure

by **Tom Demeropolis** DBJ Staff Reporter

Dayton-area business leaders are already expressing their thoughts about Dayton City Manager Rashad Young's possible departure...

The leaders were reacting to **news reported Thursday** that Young has been tentatively offered the job as city manager in Greensboro, N.C., and that the city council there has scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. to finalize their choice and announce the next city manager.

David Bohardt, executive vice president of **St. Mary's Development Corp.**, said he would be very sorry to see Young go. Bohardt said he would grade Young's performance as city manager with an "A-" because he was not afraid to make difficult decisions and helped improved the responsiveness of the city to the community's needs.

He said it's especially unfortunate because the city manager is going to have a number of difficult decisions to make during the next three years. For an outsider, those decisions would be especially tough.

"Rashad knows where all the trip wires are," Bohardt said.

Dayton Development Coalition President and CEO Jim Leftwich said it wouldn't shock him to see Young go.

"It should come as no surprise that an outstanding and capable person like Rashad Young would attract interest from other cities," Leftwich said. "While I am hopeful Rashad will stay here in the Dayton region, we look forward to working with him or his possible successor on the economic issues impacting the Dayton region."

Jeff Hoagland, Vandalia city manager, said this is a great opportunity for Young and a big loss for the city of Dayton.

He said Vandalia and Dayton work together closely on a number of areas, including the **Dayton International Airport**, and were able to do a lot together with Young as city manager.

If he were to grade Young, Hoagland said he would give him an "A," knowing his line of work.

"He's done an outstanding job with the hand he's been dealt," Hoagland said.

He said he thinks Dayton has a good support staff that will be able to work through its challenges while a replacement is sought.

Hoagland said one quality he would like to see in a replacement would be a person who is willing to be available to the other communities in the region.

Bryan Bucklew, president and chief executive officer of the **Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association**, said he was stunned and disappointed to hear Young may be packing his bags.

He said if Young were to depart, it means others in the community would have to step up to fill the void.

“We’d be losing leadership, and people would have to step up in leadership roles,” Bucklew said. “People with the county, the city and the business community would have to step up even more.”

Bucklew said he would grade Young’s performance as city manager with an “A.”

Bucklew said as far as a replacement goes, the city needs someone with experience in dealing with difficult budgets. He also said the city shouldn’t limit itself to only looking inside the city or outside the region.

“It’s more important that we get the right person, not just getting a person for the sake of getting a person in there,” he said.

Phil Parker, president and chief executive officer of the **Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce**, said he had hoped to see Young stay longer.