PERSUASIVE CALLS HELP CHARD GET DIRECTOR'S JOB

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It was announced Wednesday that retiring state legislator Blake Chard is the new director of the state Division of Youth Corrections.

Here is the rest of the story.

The Youth Corrections Board declined a month ago to approve Chard, R-Layton, who is chairman of the House appropriations committee that determines Youth Corrections budgets. Some board members were concerned that Chard had no experience in youth corrections and asked for a broader search.

But in the past month, board members received personal calls from Gov. Mike Leavitt on behalf of Chard. On Wednesday, Human Services Director Robyn Arnold Williams and Camille Anthony, director of the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, recommended Chard, the only name submitted to the board, which then approved him.

Anthony says Chard is the best choice. He has a law enforcement background (he was a police officer in northern Utah) and was instrumental in putting together a model program identifying and rehabilitating delinquent youths. Leavitt got involved because the director holds a Cabinet-level position and will be expected to be a close and trusted adviser to the governor.

Chard, who is a computer systems analyst, lost a bid for the Davis County Commission in last spring's primary election. His supporters say public knowledge of his candidacy for the Youth Corrections job may have led to his defeat.

Leading by Example

Salt Lake City resident Connie Franey recently watched a southbound van make a right turn without stopping at a red light at 200 East and 500 South, nearly running down two pedestrians in the crosswalk with the green light in their direction. The driver then raced to the traffic light on State Street and made another right turn.

Franey walked across Washington Square to get the license number when she noticed the driver park on the east side of State Street in front of the City-County Building. He then jaywalked across State Street to the Scott M. Matheson Courts Building.

The blue van (license No. 64277 EX) had Utah Department of Public Safety seals on the doors. A yellow sticker on the back window read "drive safely."

Heat's On

Despite record-breaking high temperatures, the Salt Lake City Board of Education on Tuesday refused requests to turn on the air conditioning three days early this week so parents, students and administrators could register in air-conditioned comfort at the district's three high schools. Business manager Gary Harmer said it would cost \$25,000 to turn on the cooling system for three days.

One school principal suggested Superintendent Darline Robles turn off the air conditioning at the district office for those three days. She refused. At West High School on Wednesday, the thermostat registered 110 degrees and some students nearly fainted.

Happy Valley

During a Utah County Democratic Women's Club meeting at the party's Provo headquarters Wednesday night, a man opened the door and threw three papers into the room. He then ran off.

The first flier said, "No more sex and Gore in the White House." The second: "Gore Bore."

But it was the third flier that caused the women some concern. It displayed the Star of David and said, "Down with Jew Lieberman."

The building houses the campaign headquarters of Democratic congressional candidate Donald Dunn, who also is Jewish. The police were notified.