

## **City manager ousts two after 'very bad week'**

**JASON HAGEY; The News Tribune**

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Tacoma City Manager Eric Anderson announced the departure of two staffers Thursday, a little more than a week after City Hall came under scrutiny for a pair of embarrassing blunders.

Cheryl Carlson, an assistant city attorney, had already resigned effective later this month, but was terminated instead, according to an e-mail Anderson sent to the mayor and City Council members.

The e-mail doesn't give a reason for the decision, but council members believed it was because of Carlson's role in a mistake that led the city to withdraw its appeal of a controversial plan to build 860 homes on North Shore Golf Course. The city failed to properly deliver copies of court documents to all of the parties, a mistake that City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli called "inexcusable."

Additionally, Craig Sivley, an assistant public works director, will be "separated" from city employment at the end of the month, Anderson said. He's has been placed on administrative leave for the rest of the month, according to Anderson's e-mail.

No reason was given in Sivley's case either. However, Sivley was one of the city officials who tried for years to create a Local Improvement District in the St. Helens/Broadway neighborhood. Council members shot down the project last week, saying they lost faith in the Public Works Department after a series of mistakes.

The district would have taxed property owners to help fund the creation of an "urban village" in an emerging neighborhood. But it ran into multiple setbacks, including a major cost increase and an error in the city's tally of property owner opinion over the project.

Calls to Carlson's and Sivley's homes were not returned Thursday.

Council members praised the manager's decisions.

"I think Eric's doing his job," Councilman Spiro Manthou said. "I think he understands someone needed to be held accountable."

Councilwoman Connie Ladenburg called last week's troubles a "double whammy." The mistake regarding the appeal of the planned North Shore development hurt because the city was trying to do everything in its power within the limits of the law to help Northeast Tacoma residents, Ladenburg said.