

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EXECUTIVE ORGANIZATION**  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20506

March 9, 1970

Mr. Larry J. Gordon, Director  
Environmental Services Division  
State of New Mexico Health  
and Social Services Department  
P. O. Box 2348  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

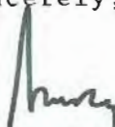
Dear Larry:

Your good letter of March 2, with enclosures, reminds me that I should have written to you, rather than the other way around, to thank you for coming to talk to us on February 26. We found our discussion with you most helpful and learned a great deal.

Thank you, also, for the other paper you sent.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Amory Bradford  
Director, Environment  
and Natural Resources  
Study Group

AHE/bp



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 2 1982

OFFICE OF  
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Larry J. Gordon, M.S., M.P.H.  
Deputy Secretary  
New Mexico Health and  
Environment Department  
P.O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Larry:

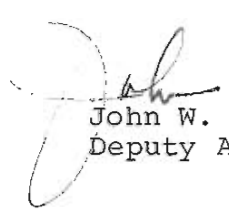
Congratulations on your recent reappointment as the Director of the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department. Your return to your old post will certainly be a valuable addition to the City of Albuquerque staff, but a great loss to the State program. However, your broad experience in the environmental area will remain available to New Mexicans.

I'm sorry I missed you down at the NEHA conference in New Orleans. I enjoyed the opportunity to talk to the members there.

I look forward to seeing you again sometime soon when I get back to New Mexico. If you're ever in Washington, drop by and say hello.

Congratulations again, with my very best regards.

Sincerely,

  
John W. Hernandez, Jr.  
Deputy Administrator



January 11, 1982

Larry J. Gordon, M.S., M.P.H.  
Deputy Secretary  
Health and Environment  
Southwest Professional Plaza 2  
811 St. Michaels Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Dear Larry:

Thanks for sharing with me a copy of your Chesley Lecture. It was a tough, thoughtful statement, and good reading.

You must feel some relief now that you've transferred the APHA responsibility. Congratulations on successful completion of your term.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike", is written above the typed name.

J. Michael McGinnis, M.D.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health  
and Assistant Surgeon General

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 16:24:49 -0500  
From: "Jackson, Richard J. (NCEH)" <rxj4@cdc.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set]  
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[Some characters may be displayed incorrectly]

Your points are right on, Larry.  
dick

Date: Tue, 05 Feb 2002 16:29:15 -0500  
From: Vincent Sikora <sikora@ACCESS.ETSU.EDU>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Thanks for sharing that with me. You always have a keen insight to what  
ks and why.

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 15:30:43 -0500  
From: Robert W Powitz <sanitarian@juno.com>  
To: eljaygee@unm.edu  
Subject: Re: Looking for love .....

Well stated !

Regards,  
Bob

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 15:11:00 -500 EST  
From: Alan Moberly <amoberly@hhcorp.org>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Hi Larry,  
, don't you just tell us how you really feel? No seriously, I  
appreciate you sending your thoughts. I always look forward to reading  
your latest! Thanks. Alan Moberly

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 14:41:23 -0500  
From: "Schletty, Arthur V." <avsl@cdc.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:---

[The following text is in the "ISO-8859-1" character set]  
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Larry, thanks! Over the past few years, I've been largely out of contact with what's going on "out there" so I generally too often have to rely on anecdotal information and instincts to tell me what's going on. The information you send me from time to time fills in the gaps (and frankly is consistent with what my instincts and anecdotal information are telling me).  
Art

Date: Tue, 05 Feb 2002 14:23:29 -0500  
From: Noreen Poor <npoor@hsc.usf.edu>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Larry,  
What a great essay!!  
Noreen

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 10:52:33 -0800  
From: "McGurk, Jack (DHS-DDWEM)" <JMcGurk@dhs.ca.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set]  
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Well done and on-target! I enjoyed your commentary very much.

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 10:45:46 -0800  
From: "Knight, Mel" <KnightM@saccounty.net>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Larry -  
As usual, well stated and focused on an issue we can all identify with. I will enjoy sharing this commentary and insight with others.  
Mel

Date: Tue, 5 Feb 2002 11:47:02 -0700  
From: "Roen, Olive" <oroen@utep.edu>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Thanks, Larry - I am giving this to our students and forwarding it to the Director of our local branch of the Texas Nurses Assoc. - what you say about environmental people can be directly applied to nurses also.  
Olive

Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 11:24:09 -0500  
From: "Herring, Michael" <zhy2@cdc.gov>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Thanks Larry. I also enjoyed meeting you. I had heard much about you from my colleagues at CDC and elsewhere. Your reputation as a visionary and one of the true leaders of the environmental health profession are well-deserved.

I have read your attached comments before from a paper you authored. I couldn't agree more.

Take care and keep in touch.

CAPT Michael E. Herring, REHS, MPH  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Environmental Health  
Environmental Health Services Branch  
770-488-7351  
mherring@cdc.gov

Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2002 18:20:01 -0500  
From: Patricia Elliott <pellott@ASTHO.org>  
To: 'LarryGordon' <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: RE:

Larry - I liked this one a lot - it was very inspirational! In late May, ASTHO's Environmental Health Policy Committee will be meeting to do some strategic planning and I think your comments will be good to keep in mind as we move forward.

Look forward to seeing you in March.

Best, Pat

Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2002 13:20:46 -0500  
From: "Paul A. Locke" <plocke@tfah.org>  
To: LarryGordon <eljaygee@unm.edu>  
Subject: Re:

Larry:

Nice piece -- thanks for sending it.

Paul

Paul A. Locke, JD, DrPH  
Deputy Director  
Trust for America's Health



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VI

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

June 14, 1988 .

Mr. Larry Gordon  
7100 Carriveau, NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Dear Larry:

Congratulations on completing such a distinguished career and for a most deserved retirement.

Your contributions to the field of public health at the local, state and national levels are most commendable. Of special note is the leadership you have provided towards enhancing the environmental health profession and in particular your success towards inspiring the numbers of individuals you have in going forth to "slay the dragon".

In this regard I wanted to take the opportunity to express my personal gratitude for the many fine things you have done for me. You provided me with my first job after graduation from college. Subsequently, it was your influence that gained my acceptance to graduate school, and it was you who hired me upon receiving my Master of Public Health degree. Under your tutelage I was able to ascend the corporate stairs to become, upon the strength of your recommendation, the Director of the State Environmental Improvement Division. And it was you again who assisted me in obtaining the position I now hold with the Environmental Protection Agency.

I shall always be greatly indebted to you and hope that my efforts in the field will serve as a reflection of the professional leadership you have so aptly demonstrated.

However, in addition Larry you have allowed me to experience certain little character builders or lessons, if you will, in life which must not go unmentioned. For these pearls of wisdom I have never really thanked you and wanted to take this opportunity to do so.

For example, I recall one hot summer afternoon attempting to downgrade a certain Albuquerque restaurant. The proprietor, your above average size Sumo wrestler, and his two even larger sons took offense at my intentions and attempted to physically prevent me from performing my duty. We had previously been advised by the County District Attorney that dealing with this particular individual would be difficult, possibly bordering on the aggressive side. Therefore, you directed that since it was my area of responsibility that I, plus a supervisor handle the situation. As a special precaution, arrangements were made to have a Deputy Sheriff present to assure the downgrading occurred without incident. The particular deputy assigned tipped the scale at about 105 lbs. soaking wet. However, it was

upon discovering that the deputy's handcuffs were not large enough to fit around the gigantic wrist of the proprietor that the feeling of sheer terror emerged. It was at this point that I pondered alternatives. Perhaps the downgrading really wasn't warranted. But no, Larry Gordon would not accept such a posture. Therefore, not to be denied, the personal assistance of the County Sheriff was obtained. His counseling of the proprietor along with dispatching an additional deputy to the scene allowed the downgrading to be accomplished. I recall your reaction to the situation and to the events leading up to it as something to the effect that, "Ya done good! Glad it wasn't me, I think I'll go home and have a martini."

In retrospect, I realize that you had imparted several basic management principles to me from this incident. Lesson Number 1 - Never approach a hostile situation when there is staff available whose negotiation skills are in need of development. Lesson Number 2 - There are always staff available with such needs. Lesson Number 3 - Provide support and encouragement to staff for their efforts but do not sweat another's trauma. And Lesson Number 4 - Martini's help to relieve stress and put the day into perspective.

Now as a federal official I am in a position to assure that the lessons you have taught me are being applied on a much broader scale. I am sure that given the opportunity there are many EPA employees in Dallas which would similarly thank you for the enlightenment which has transcended from you, through me to them.

Also, how will I ever thank you for helping me to obtain an exempt position in State government? In discounting any possible vulnerability I might encounter under a new administration I well remember your reassurances. "Political parties retaining office usually make very few changes among department heads and directors of technical/professional agencies are hardly ever affected by changes in administration." HA! I should have suspected something when shortly after my appointment as Agency Director you announced your return to city government. Lesson Number 5 - Start the process of finding another job immediately upon accepting any political appointment. Lesson Number 6 - Move out when the big guy moves out.

For all of the above I thank you and wish you a most enjoyable retirement.

Sincerely,



Russell F. Rhoades  
Director  
Environmental Services Division (6E)

P.S. Since your agenda will no doubt include time for some serious fishing, an activity about which you have so "humbly" expressed your successes, please assure that all proclaimed record catches are accompanied by photos and two notarized witness statements.





Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Office of Training and Education  
1555 Times Drive  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

Mr. Larry Gordon  
c/o Loris W. Hughes, Ph.D., Director  
Scientific Laboratory Division  
700 Camino de Salud N.E.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear Larry:

I have just received word that you are retiring from state service. Further, I understand that you are going to be honored with a banquet on June 17.

Let me say that I wish you success and enjoyment in this new career called "retirement." I understand that nearly all people who enter it, seem to really like it on a daily basis. Some find the time to write books or give speeches as they proceed through this unique time. A few even find time to "do some consulting". However, having worked with you at the recent Environmental Health Faculty/Employer Forum in Ann Arbor, Michigan, I know that your retirement will not be quiet and uneventful. Your unique ability to synthesize a common idea from all the "verbal diarrhea" that was being thrown around during our committee meeting was demonstrated on several occasions. It must be a result of your time spent in the employment of the government.

I enjoyed working with you and I hope you will continue to be active to some degree in the area of environmental health. Good luck on your retirement and remember to stop by and visit if you are in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Towey".

Tony Towey, Chief  
Division of Training and  
Educational Programs



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VI

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

JUN 17 1979

Mr. Larry Gordon  
7100 Carriveau, NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Dear Larry:

On the occasion of your retirement I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you my heartiest congratulations.

As a pioneer in the development of public health and environmental protection programs it must give you an extraordinary sense of pride and satisfaction to witness the progress that has been achieved over the past several years in this country. Efforts such as yours have helped to focus attention and resources on factors seriously impacting the public's health. As a result great strides have been made to improve the quality of our air and water. Hazardous substances are coming under greater scrutiny. And the American public has become increasingly more knowledgeable and insistent upon a clean environment. Also much, to the credit of yourself and your colleagues the concept of prevention is becoming more deeply rooted in the management of environmental problems.

While being a strong advocate for enhancing the quality of our health and environment you have been equally as strong a proponent for effective management of programs in this regard. The creation of a state-wide consolidated environmental agency as well as a similarly consolidated state laboratory attest to this fact. As a result, New Mexico has been able to administer programs in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Your efforts to secure legislation authorizing the state to pursue numerous problem areas, your promotion of positive public relations and pro-active health education initiatives plus your penchant for professionalism truly have benefited the citizens of New Mexico.

While your retirement culminates years of distinguished service in local and State government, I understand that you shall continue to write and consult in the field. We shall look forward to your continuing efforts to help shape our environmental destiny as we move into this next century. On behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency I wish to congratulate you on your retirement and to thank you for your many contributions toward our goal of a clean and healthful environment.

Sincerely,

*Robert E. Layton Jr.*  
Robert E. Layton Jr., P.E.  
Regional Administrator



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the  
Regional Director

Region VI  
1200 Main Tower Building  
Dallas, Texas 75202

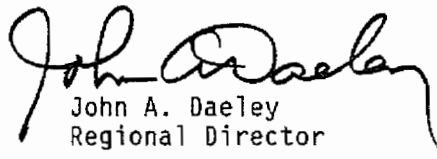
June 1, 1988

Larry Gordon  
Secretary  
Health & Environment Department  
P.O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Larry:

Congratulations on reaching a major milestone in your life. On the eve of your retirement, I want to extend to you my appreciation for a life dedicated to public service, and extend my best wishes for every success in your next career.

Sincerely,

  
John A. Daeley  
Regional Director



National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences  
P.O. Box 12233  
Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709

June 7, 1988

Mr. Larry Gordon, Secretary  
Department of Health and Environment  
State of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Dear Mr. Gordon:

I wish to join with your many friends and colleagues in offering my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude for your contributions to the field of public health and environmental protection during a distinguished career of government service. Your leadership has been a model for us all as the field of environmental public health has been challenged both to respond to health problems associated with emerging technologies and to sustain advances gained over the traditional risks from poor sanitation, vector-borne disease, and tainted foods.

Please accept my very best wishes on the occasion of your retirement, and I hope that you will find the time and opportunity to continue to exert a positive influence on the work that remains.

Sincerely yours,

Dan C. VanderMeer, Director  
Office of Program Planning and Evaluation



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Bureau of Health Professions

Public Health Service

Health Resources and  
Services Administration  
Rockville MD 20857

JUN - 9 1988

Larry Gordon, Secretary  
Health and Environment Department  
c/o Scientific Laboratory Division  
700 Camino de Salud NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear Larry:

This letter is written in your honor, but the privilege is all mine. I knew you through your writings, and reputation for more than fifteen years before actually meeting you in 1985. Since then my respect for your administrative and technical skills, insights, opinions, and teaching have only increased.

Your calm manner commands respect without being demanding. It is not surprising to find such dedication to the job and respect for his fellow worker in a man who is both a great thinker and an accomplished "doer". I know that your retirement will only provide more opportunities for you to devote to your life's passion -- Environmental Health.

With best wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Barry*

Barry S. Stern, M.P.H.  
Environmental Program Officer  
Bureau of Health Professions  
U.S. Public Health Service

