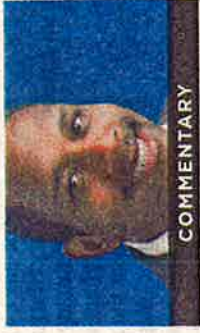


PARENTING, PROPERTY PULL

STEVE PENN



COMMENTARY

Chairing the zoning and planning board is equivalent to receiving a Ph.D. in real estate. That's going to be my chosen profession."

As he and Arielle boxed up paperwork in his office at City Hall recently, he told me it's been

SEE PENN | B2

He's gained expertise as chairman of Kansas City's Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee. Now that he's termed out, he plans to use what he's learned to start a career.

When Troy Nash walks out of City Hall in early April, he knows exactly what his priorities will be.

At the top of that list will be his daughter, Arielle. Troy and Arielle made news in January 2000 when Nash took her to work at City Hall when she was just 15 weeks old. Well, Arielle is now 7.

"Focusing on my daughter is my priority," Nash said. "A close second is real estate. I've learned the game extremely well here in Kansas City.

UMKC.

He's expected to complete a master's degree in finance from UMKC later this year and a doctorate in economics from UMKC in 2008.

"I'm doing them both at the same time," Nash said. "By June, I also plan on holding the most significant real estate certifications in the nation." Even though Nash is leaving elected office, this won't be the last time we will see him on the political stage.

"Absolutely, unequivocally and without a doubt, I will return to politics someday," Nash said.

"I do see myself in some form of public service, either in elected office or maybe even as an ambassador."

Nash has served some important roles for this city. Yet he clearly seems to realize that raising his daughter the best he can will be the most important role he'll ever have.

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JILL TOYOSHIBA | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Kansas City Councilman Troy Nash will leave office in April. His daughter, first-grader Arielle, 7, has spent a lot of time in City Hall with him.

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an honor and a privilege to serve.

"It's probably one of the most significant experiences of my life to date," Nash said.

As the 3rd District at large councilman, Nash has served an area rife with problems such as crime, blight and a lack of economic development. While some of those issues were addressed during his tenure, he acknowledges many remain.

"We were able to accomplish more than I anticipated given the fact we were so far behind from an economic development and social standpoint," Nash said. "I think the record will speak for itself. The reality is, there is still an awfully long way to go and still more work to be done."

In a few weeks, all of that work will be in Nash's rear-view mirror. He'll officially pass the baton after the March 27 election.

Arielle, a first-grader at Pembroke Hill School, will garner much of his attention and

dominate his schedule. Arielle has seen a lot in seven years.

"Since she's been in the world, she's been to every major event I've attended," Nash said. "It's all about being an example to her. She not only has traveled with me across the country but around the world."

That's because Nash has become a world traveler. In 2006, he was selected chairman of the board of trustees for People to People International. Everywhere Nash goes, Arielle goes.

"I've been to Australia, the Virgin Islands, San Diego, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Denver," Arielle said. "I really liked the Virgin Islands. I loved the crab race they had every Friday. It was fun. My dad's the best in the whole wide world."

Nash, 37, has an amazing resume. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from Wesley College in Dover, Del. That's in addition to the master's degree in economics from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He also holds a law degree from