

Community Planning and Economic Development News Release

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Heather Worthington Named New Director of Long Range Planning for City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development

Friday, July 28, 2017 (Minneapolis, MN) – Following a comprehensive search conducted by Cohen Taylor, the City of Minneapolis announced today that Heather Worthington has been hired as the new Director of Long Range Planning for the department of Community Planning and Economic Development.

“Heather is a strong leader with a tremendous background in economic development management and planning,” said Mayor Betsy Hodges. “I am confident that she will provide strong leadership as we move the City’s Comprehensive Plan toward final adoption, and I look forward to working with her.”

Worthington brings over 20 years of government leadership and management experience to the City of Minneapolis with her most recent position being the Deputy County Manager - Economic Growth and Community Investment for Ramsey County which she held since 2010. Prior to that, she served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Edina where she was responsible for leading their 2008 comprehensive plan update and facility relocation planning among other duties. Worthington has also held leadership roles in the City of Falcon Heights as their City Administrator and she served as the Executive Director and a Community Organizer for the St. Anthony Park Community Council.

“I am thrilled that Heather Worthington has agreed to lead our Long Range Planning division,” said Council Member Lisa Bender. “Her expertise in planning and economic development and her clear focus on racial equity in her work will help realize the vision of our comprehensive plan update and the work of planning for future growth in our city.”

“With the monumental task of updating the Minneapolis Comprehensive plan already under way, Heather Worthington offers the proven and experienced leadership the City needs for our Long Range Planning division,” said Council Member Kevin Reich. “Her extensive experience

and 20 plus years commitment to public service is exactly what we need to help the City advance its goals.”

As Director of Long Range Planning, Worthington will be responsible for leading and managing a planning and research team who has the responsibility of updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan which outlines citywide policies and priorities related to investment in the built, natural, and economic environment. The Long Range Planning division also is responsible for preparing and maintains small area plans, thematic plans, and other strategic planning initiatives such as designing the Public Realm Framework and the City’s Parklet program. The City’s Art in Public Places program also resides in the Long Range Planning division.

“Heather will be a fantastic addition to our team. Her experience, her energy, and her skills working to guide public projects will serve the City well as we engage with stakeholders on our comprehensive plan update over the next year,” said David Frank, CPED Director of Economic Policy and Development. “Heather is a well-respected professional, and we are lucky to have her join our team.”

“I am very excited to join the Long Range Planning team at CPED, and to work with the talented staff to help the people of Minneapolis plan for the future of their dynamic city,” said Heather Worthington. “I am looking forward to working with residents, business owners, elected officials and community stakeholders to realize a future that includes equity and authentic engagement to address the unique opportunities and challenges facing Minneapolis.”

The CPED Long Range Planning team includes a staff of approximately 15. Worthington will join the department in mid-September.

An active community volunteer, Worthington has served on a number of boards, committees and other various volunteer roles including as a Junior Achievement Instructor, Hamline Mediation Center for Dispute Resolution Board Member, and LMC Improving Local Economies Committee Board Chair. She also helped develop the Mounds View Schools STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Initiative – TCAAP (Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant).

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