



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager

DATE: December 1, 2023

SUBJECT: Personnel Announcements

I want to share with you some personnel changes that are underway.

First, as you all know, Housing Department Director Rosie Truelove has accepted a position in the City of Kyle and will be retiring effective December 31, 2023.

Rosie has worked for the City of Austin for almost 26 years and served in many roles in multiple departments. For the past seven years, she has led the City's Housing Department and former Housing and Planning Department.

I am grateful to Rosie for her leadership and longstanding commitment to the City of Austin. Please join me in congratulating Rosie on her retirement and her new professional opportunity in Kyle.

We have asked Mandy DeMayo, currently serving as the Deputy Director for the Housing Department, to step in as Interim Director. In her role as Deputy Director, she oversees the department's affordable housing and displacement prevention programs, Austin Housing Finance Corporation's real estate activities, as well as the department's finance and administration. Mandy has been with the City of Austin for six years. She brings more than 25 years of experience in affordable housing, real estate, and community development to this position and has been serving as the Deputy Director since February 2022. Prior to being named Deputy Director, she served as Interim Deputy Director, and upon joining the City, served as Community Development Administrator for what was then the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department.

Additionally, Chief Resilience Officer Laura Patiño has notified my Office of her intent to resign effective January 12, 2024. Laura has served as our Chief Resilience Officer since April 2022. In that capacity, she has served as an essential central point of focus within the City of Austin for the development and implementation of a comprehensive community resilience plan and strategies.

In her letter of resignation, Laura noted “I would like to use this opportunity to commend the City of Austin – leadership, departments, and staff alike – for advancing comprehensive resilience efforts that will improve Austinites’ lives and better prepare them to withstand future disruptions.”

Laura will work with appropriate staff to develop a transition plan to ensure continuation of all resilience activities coordinated through her office. This includes the comprehensive resilience plan, resilience hub network program, individual and community resilience-building, economic resilience integration, heat and other climate adaptation interdepartmental coordination, fundraising and external partnerships, and other initiatives.

Laura will certainly be missed, and I want to wish her much success in her future endeavors. Upon Laura’s departure, Zach Baumer will serve as Interim Chief Officer over the Office of Resilience in addition to serving as the Interim Chief Sustainability Officer over the Office of Sustainability, a position he has held since January 2023. Prior to Zach overseeing the Office of Sustainability, he served as the Office’s Climate Program Manager since 2011.

In addition, I want to announce that Tamela Saldaña will take on the role of Interim Officer for the Equity Office in addition to her current position of Interim Civil Rights Officer overseeing the Office of Civil Rights. Tamela has worked for the City for the past ten years. Prior to assuming the Interim Civil Rights Officer position, she worked with the Small & Minority Business Department where she served as the Assistant Director. Tamela has more than 25 years of federal, state, and local government experience.

I appreciate both Zach’s and Tamela’s willingness to take on additional oversight responsibilities. These Officer positions will be filled permanently once a Deputy City Manager is hired.

I am also pleased to announce that Sarah Griffin has accepted the position of Chief Labor Relations Officer. Sarah was appointed Deputy Labor Relations Officer in August of 2021 and has been serving as Interim Chief Labor Relations Officer since August 2022. In this capacity, she was instrumental with the successful labor negotiations with our Emergency Medical Services and the arbitration award with the Austin Firefighters’ Association this year. Prior to August 2021, she acted as outside counsel on the City’s labor contract negotiations with the law firm of Denton, Navarro, Roch, Bernal & Zech. She has been a municipal attorney for more than 30 years with almost 25 years of experience in negotiating labor contracts in both Texas and Illinois.

Please join me in thanking both Rosie Truelove and Laura Patiño for their dedicated service to our City, to Mandy for agreeing to serve as Interim Deputy Director for Housing, to Zach and Tamela for taking on additional oversight responsibility, and congratulating Sarah on her appointment.

cc: CMO Executive Team
Department Directors