



News from: Office of the City Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2015

Mark Sawicki Joins the City of Oakland as Director of Economic & Workforce Development

Oakland, CA — Mark Sawicki has joined the City of Oakland as Director of Economic & Workforce Development. In this role, Mr. Sawicki will lead a department of 50 staff working on significant real estate projects and negotiations; business attraction, retention and expansion efforts; implementation of job training programs, including oversight of the Oakland Workforce Investment Board; and on the City’s marketing and public art initiatives. He will be a key member on the City’s team that is advancing major projects such as the Coliseum City plan.

“I am excited to have Mark Sawicki join the City of Oakland in this critical leadership position,” said Mayor Libby Schaaf. “Mark has a proven track record attracting investment to cities and deep experience in both the private and public sectors. Both skill sets will help Mark make significant inroads on behalf of Oaklanders. I look forward to working with him to grow our economy, increase revenues and create jobs in Oakland.”

Mark has more than 30 years of experience in both the private and public sector. Most recently, he was the Community & Economic Development Director at the City of Vallejo, directing the city’s Economic Development, Real Estate Asset Management, Planning and Building divisions, as well as the Successor Agency to the city’s former Redevelopment Agency. He oversaw the continuing redevelopment and reuse of the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard, downtown and waterfront revitalization efforts, as well as business attraction and retention programs.

Prior to his position in Vallejo, Mark served as the Economic Development & Housing Manager for the City of San Carlos, where he developed and implemented an Economic Development Strategy, developed a marketing and branding campaign for the city, and led negotiations on large development projects including transit-oriented, mixed-use projects in the downtown.

Mark previously worked in the private sector as a managing consultant at Seifel Consulting in San Francisco, providing real estate, economic and redevelopment advisory services to cities, counties and redevelopment agencies across California. In his earlier career, he was Chief Financial Officer and co-founder of a startup business that grew to over 100 employees, and was an asset manager for a \$275 million national portfolio of real estate investments.

Mark holds a Masters in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley and a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from New York University. He served four years on the City of Berkeley Housing Advisory Commission and was a visiting instructor in public policy at Mills College in Oakland.

The Department of Economic & Workforce Development includes staff across four divisions: Project Implementation, Economic Development, Workforce Development and Cultural Arts and Marketing.

Media Contact:

Harry Hamilton
Public Information Officer
510-238-2107
hhamilton@oaklandnet.com

Facebook: CityofOakland

Twitter: @Oakland

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