



City of
OAKLAND
California

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City of Oakland Announces Appointment of New Parks & Recreation Director

Oakland, CA – City Administrator Sabrina Landreth today announced the appointment of our new Oakland Parks & Recreation Director, Mr. Nicholas Williams. “Nicholas is an Oakland native who brings back to Oakland a wealth of experience in the field of parks and recreation that matches the needs of the organization and our community,” said Ms. Landreth. “Nicholas has a sound reputation in effectively strengthening communities, building and sustaining relationships, solving problems, serving with grace and leading with integrity. His experience spans the areas of programming, park maintenance, capital improvement and community engagement.”

For the past three years, Nicholas has served as the Assistant Superintendent of Recreation at Minneapolis Parks and Recreation, known as having one of the top park systems in the country. He has been responsible for 49 year-round, neighborhood-based recreation centers that offer hundreds of recreation, education and interpretive programs for youth, adults and seniors in the Minneapolis area. He is dedicated to improving quality of life for the entire community through community engagement and partnerships in the preservation and expansion of recreational facilities and programs.

Prior to Minneapolis, Nicholas had an impressive career managing park and recreation operations in the City of Atlanta for over five years. Nicholas is credited with improving recreation center programming and tripling enrollment, and improving the summer camp program and Camp Best Friends. Nicholas also brought to Atlanta the nationally acclaimed Children's Defense Fund's Freedom Schools in four recreation centers. His was responsible for creating dynamic partnerships with organizations like The Home Depot, Hands on Atlanta and Habitat for Humanity to develop and execute beautification initiatives at city parks. These partnerships have outlived Nicholas' tenure and are currently used to continue to build the capacity of community advocacy groups.

Nicholas is excited to return to Oakland and to apply his experience and expertise. Nicolas states that, "Many of my fondest memories took place in Oakland's neighborhood parks. I am thrilled to return home and lead the parks and recreation department that helped shape my childhood. Parks and recreation enhance quality of life and help build strong communities. It is an honor to join this great team of professionals who passionately serve the residents and guests of Oakland, California. Go Dubs!"

Nicholas holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Morehouse College and is currently attending Metropolitan State University where he is pursuing a Masters in Management and Leadership. Nicholas is married and has three children.

Nicholas fills the vacancy left by Ms. Audree Jones Taylor who retired in December 2015, and will start work as the new director on Monday, June 6, 2016.

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