

News from: **City of Oakland**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2017

City of Oakland Appoints New Planning & Building Director William Gilchrist

Oakland, CA – Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and City Administrator Sabrina Landreth announced today the appointment of Mr. William Gilchrist as the City’s new Planning & Building Director.

Mr. Gilchrist was selected following an extensive national search for a new director. His 35-year career spans both the public and private sectors, with expertise in community regeneration, place-based planning, urban design, and quality customer service through boosting permitting efficiencies. His talents will be instrumental in leading the Planning & Building Department’s ongoing efforts to address safety and habitability of homes and buildings in Oakland through code compliance and permitting.

Mr. Gilchrist has most recently served as Director of Place-Based Planning for the City of New Orleans, where for the past seven years he has overseen the administration’s urban design and place-based development strategy across public agencies and city departments. Prior to working for the City of New Orleans, he was a Senior Associate at AECOM in Atlanta, where he directed the urban design studio for domestic and international projects including community revitalization, environmental justice, urban design, transportation-oriented development, mixed-use development, comprehensive plan elements, land-use regulations, and design guidelines.

He also served for 15 years as the Director of Planning, Engineering and Permits for the City of Birmingham, Alabama, where he oversaw development regulations, capital program, infrastructure, transportation projects, grant management, comprehensive planning, neighborhood planning, city center planning, commercial district revitalization, and city facility needs.

"I am excited to have William join our team at such a pivotal moment to help lead our work to protect affordability, increase safety, and build new units for all Oaklanders," said Mayor Libby Schaaf. "William brings a unique expertise in reconciling broad constituent interests for urban investment and community regeneration which makes him ideally suited to address the real concerns Oakland residents have related to housing insecurity and displacement, and ensuring that new development serves all Oaklanders."

Oakland City Administrator Sabrina Landreth said she is delighted that Mr. Gilchrist is joining her executive team. "William’s community-focused approach to urban design and planning will be a huge asset to the City during this time of great change in Oakland. I appreciate his commitment to bringing community members into the planning process to support viable, sustainable development that will meet the housing, employment, recreation, and cultural needs of our community."



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

Karen Boyd
City Administrator's
Office
(510) 449-4401
kboyd@oaklandnet.com

“Through decades of dedication to community-based planning and design, Oakland has distinguished itself among American cities in confronting issues of equity, culture, and environment that many cities are just now recognizing as integral to successful urban development and sustainability,” Mr. Gilchrist said. “I am excited for this compelling opportunity to serve the Oakland community in framing and implementing visionary planning and development that addresses critical needs facing Oakland today and in the future.”

Over the course of his career, Mr. Gilchrist has enacted award-winning planning and community revitalization strategies, enlisting economic, architectural, artistic, and engineering disciplines to address community needs through stakeholder outreach and interactive project implementation. He has established and administered design standards for commercial revitalization, housing, and historic preservation, and has represented municipal interests on regional planning organizations.

Mr. Gilchrist is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Master of Architecture degree, a Master of Science degree in Management, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Design. He also completed the Kennedy School of Government’s State and Local Executive Program at Harvard University. He is certified by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

Municipal, federal, and professional organizations have awarded and recognized Mr. Gilchrist’s work for its contributions to communities through design and planning, including the American Institute of Architects, American Planning Association, Urban Land Institute, National League of Cities, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Mr. Gilchrist will assume his new duties as Planning & Building Director on September 11, 2017.



#

