



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Deanna J. Santana

**SUBJECT: PLANNING & BUILDING
DIRECTOR**

DATE: February 15, 2013

INFORMATION

Mayor Jean Quan and I are pleased to announce the appointment of Rachel O'Dwyer Flynn as Planning and Building Director for the City of Oakland, effective March 4. Ms. Flynn is a licensed architect and urban planner who has more than 25 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. Most recently, she worked in Abu Dhabi for Otak International, consulting on planning and architecture projects for the Abu Dhabi municipality, the Urban Planning Council, and the National Oil Company. Prior to her international work, she served as the Director of Planning and Development for two Virginia cities—Richmond and Lynchburg. In these historic cities, she developed award winning master plans and oversaw a variety of initiatives, including permitting/inspection systems improvements, zoning ordinance updates, GIS mapping upgrades, new design standards and the creation of form-based codes. In addition, Ms. Flynn oversaw downtown and neighborhood redevelopment, historic preservation efforts and an expanded urban forest. Ms. Flynn spent most of her early career with Cannon Design, an architectural and engineering firm, working on a variety of projects in New York City, Boston, Washington D. C., Tel Aviv and Toronto.

Ms. Flynn is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions during her time in Virginia, including Central Virginia Visionary (*Region 2000 Business Journal*), Most Influential Leader (*Lynchburg Living Magazine*), Historic Preservationist of the Year (*Lynchburg Historical Foundation*) and Urban Conservationist of the Year (*R.E Lee Soil & Water Conservation District*). She is also the recipient of other awards for initiatives in digital technology, scenic enhancements, environmental stewardship, and community revitalization.

Ms. Flynn has served on numerous boards, including the Virginia Historic Resources Board, Sweet Briar College, the Academy of Music and the American Civil War Center. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, a Master of Engineering Management from Catholic University in Washington, DC and a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture also from Catholic University.

Please join me in congratulating Rachel on her appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

DEANNA J. SANTANA
City Administrator