

## **City Manager Appoints Three New Interim Directors**

Today, the City Manager has appointed three new interim directors due to the recent passing of the Director of the Community Development Department, Deborah Christie (formerly Deborah Livingston). Gloria Saeed, who currently serves as Executive Director for Columbia Housing and TN Development Corporations, both 501 c(3) affordable housing subsidiaries for the City of Columbia, will transition into Community Development's interim director. Michael Strange who is presently the Executive Director of the Eau Claire Development Corporation will fulfill Gloria's role as interim Executive Director for Columbia Housing & TN Development Corporations and Cecil Hannibal will be named interim Executive Director of the Eau Claire Development Corporation, fulfilling Michael's role. All appointed interim directors will assume their duties effective July 1, 2016.

"The city experienced a major loss with the passing of Deborah, but she would want us to move forward to continue to provide the best possible services to our citizens. In this spirit I have taken steps to appoint three very capable professionals to various roles in our organization. These appointments will allow us to ensure seamless operations in our Community Development Department and two of our development corporations. It is beneficial that we were able to tap into our current employee pool of expertise to guarantee a smooth transition during this period of healing in our city family," City Manager Teresa Wilson stated.

### **Community Development's Interim Director, Gloria Saeed**

In Saeed's current role, she is responsible for the overall management and development of single-family housing for homeownership and multifamily housing rentals with combined assets totaling \$8.9 million. She works with developers to plan and implement development projects and partners with other organizations to revitalize neighborhoods in targeted areas of the city of Columbia. She also works closely with her board of directors and community leaders to maintain awareness of current needs and planning of future projects. Her recent accomplishments include the completion of the Lyon Street Redevelopment project consisting of six (6) new homes. In addition, her work includes experience in HUD Section 8 and commercial apartment rental with a portfolio totaling 204 units. Saeed started working with the City in 2002 as a loan officer in the Community Development Department.

Her other experience and accomplishments include:

- Management of federal dollars to include HOME, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and US Treasury funds;
- Job training program implementation and oversight;
- Homebuyer counseling;
- Development of operational policies and procedures;
- Former mortgage banker and business owner

### **Columbia Housing and TN Development Corporations' Interim Executive Director, Michael Strange**

Michael C. Strange, who is presently Executive Director of the Eau Claire Development Corporation (ECDC), will be named the interim Executive Director for Columbia Housing and TN Development Corporations. Strange has served as the Executive Director of the Eau Claire Development Corporation for the City of Columbia since 2012. During his tenure, ECDC has built and sold six homes in the Burton Heights Subdivision, purchased commercial real estate properties and created a jobs initiative program. Additionally, he has successfully recruited a full complement of board members who have engaged in a strategic planning process as well as participated in board governance training.

Strange has also effectively balanced ECDC's budget which includes the management of federal funds for Eau Claire/North Columbia projects. His previous work experience includes 18 years as Vice President of Commercial Lending at Security Federal Bank, Wells Fargo and Bank of America in Columbia. He is certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) with the National Development Council and will complete his certification as an Economic Developer with the International Economic Developer Council in 2017.

**Eau Claire Development Corporation's Interim Executive Director, Cecil Hannibal**

Cecil Hannibal is currently the Deputy Director in the City of Columbia Office of Economic Development. He joined the city in 2010 as the City Loan Officer with the Office of Business Opportunities and will now be appointed as the interim Executive Director of the Eau Claire Development Corporation. Throughout his 25 year professional career he has served as a Vice President with Bank of America, Nations Bank, RBC Centura, Merrill Lynch, Fifth Third Bank, and City Executive with South Carolina Community Bank.

Hannibal is a member and graduate of the South Carolina Community and Economic Development Assoc., International Economic Development Council, and the Southern Economic Development Council. He also serves on the South Carolina Community Loan Fund New Market Tax Credit Advisory Board, North Columbia Business Association Board, Richland One Advisory Board and is currently an Airport Commissioner with the Jim Hamilton - LB Owens Airport.

All three employees are well versed in their areas of expertise and are ready to step into their new roles as interim directors.

**Appointments will be effective on July 1, 2016.**

**Gloria Saaed**



**Michael Strange**



**Cecil Hannibal**

