

Bureau of Economic Development  
Acting Bureau Chief Appointment Remarks  
Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting  
September 4, 2019

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- Thank you Chairman Suffredin and Board of Commissioners
- I want to start by thanking President Preckwinkle for nominating me as Bureau Chief of the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development. I am very grateful for this opportunity and realize that this role carries a significant responsibility to create vital communities where both businesses and residents can thrive.
- 8 years ago, I joined President Preckwinkle's administration and helped establish the Bureau of Economic Development so the County would have a voice at the economic development, planning and policy tables. Since then, I have held a number of senior management positions in the County where I have consistently developed, designed and implemented organizational efficiencies and strategies that have made Cook County government more efficient, transparent and accountable. I have enjoyed serving as the County's internal consultant and have been fortunate to work in an administration that challenges us to assess and reinvent how government functions for our constituents.
- In some respects, returning to the Bureau feels like "returning home." When President Preckwinkle established this Bureau at the beginning of her first term, I had the privilege of being part of its first management team, helping to develop some of our key strategies – regional collaboration, a focus on key economic sectors like our

manufacturing sector and making key investments in our communities. As I moved on to other senior management roles with the County, the Bureau of Economic Development continued to advance, and I now have the privilege to return to the Bureau and leverage experience and partnerships gained in my previous roles to deepen and broaden the impact of the Bureau of Economic Development.

- The Bureau of Economic Development includes the Office of Economic Development and three Departments; Planning and Development, Building and Zoning and Zoning Board of Appeals and a team of dedicated professionals.

Our work is driven by a commitment to:

*“Pursue inclusive economic and community growth, by supporting residents, growing businesses, attracting investment and nurturing talent.”*

- I have made leveraging our resources to pursue this mission my number one priority. You may not be familiar with all of our initiatives and I encourage you to reach out to me so together we can build on the assets of your communities to further economic growth.
- This strategy may sound both ambitious and obvious at the same time but will require new crosscutting, integrated and inclusive approaches both within the Bureau, with our partners in communities. We face increasing needs and limited resources. Challenging times requires us to evaluate our current ways of operating and find ways to do things better, more cohesively and more efficiently.

- Inspiring county employees to continuously improve their performance is something that I helped institutionalize through the establishment of the County's new Office of Research, Operations and Innovation. I appreciate the talent and dedication of the Bureau's staff and am excited to embed a philosophy of service and continuous improvement into the Bureau of Economic Development's operations.
- Over the next year and a half, the Bureau will play a key support role in the 2020 Census. We will be assisting the Cook County Complete Count Commission and President Preckwinkle with this vital work that impacts the life of every resident of our County. Census data provides the basis for the allocation and distribution of billions in federal funds to local communities in areas such as transportation, healthcare and affordable housing. An accurate census helps ensure that the County receives its share of the funding to needed to serve our residents. It is important that we all work together to ensure every resident of Cook County is counted.
- I realize that I have an ambitious vision for the Bureau, and I recognize this work cannot be done alone. I look forward to a collaborative partnership with each of you to promote vibrant communities that thrive. I thank you for your consideration of my appointment.

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