

For Immediate Release

February 7, 2022

Media Contact: Heather Sumagaysay, Public Information Officer

hsumagaysay@cityofventura.ca.gov

City of Ventura announces Meredith Hart as economic development manager

Ventura, Calif. – After a highly competitive, open recruitment process, the City of Ventura has hired Meredith Hart as its new Economic Development Manager.

"As a Ventura native, I'm looking forward to working with local businesses, commercial real estate brokers, and people investing in the region to build an environment for economic sustainability and growth," said Economic Development Manager Meredith Hart. "Ventura is a great place to live, work, and do business. I'm excited to step into this role and support new, growing, and legacy businesses thrive in our community."

As the City's economic development manager, Meredith will oversee economic sustainability and growth. This includes business retention and attraction, expanding workforce development and educational partnerships, and increasing job opportunities.

With more than 10 years of public and private sector experience, Meredith has a strong background in strategic planning, project management, and effective collaboration working with Ventura's business community. She has served as the interim economic development manager since October 2021, and previously served as the City's Safe & Clean Manager, where she worked with businesses and community groups to address homelessness and housing needs within the City.

During her time as the safe & clean manager, she developed successful policies and programs with the Ventura City Council in various focuses, including the development and creation of the City's first year-round shelter, proactive outreach team, river bottom trash removal program, and most recently, supporting the Main Street Moves program.

Prior to joining the City, Meredith worked at Downtown Ventura Partners, where she served as the deputy director. In this role, she focused on fostering a vibrant commercial district through business engagement and created retention, expansion, and attraction programs for restaurants and retailers. She also hosted a business development conference for downtown businesses and enhanced safety measures by implementing the Downtown Ambassador Programs.

For more information about the City's Economic Development Programs, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/ed.

###