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City announces new acting Community Development Director

Ventura, Calif. – The City of Ventura announced today that Neda Zayer has been selected to serve as the acting Community Development Director, effective November 15, 2022. Zayer will succeed Peter Gilli, who came to Ventura in June 2019. Neda Zayer has served as the City’s Assistant Community Development Director since September 2019.

“Mr. Gilli has led the department through unprecedented challenges, transitioning permits online in response to the pandemic, advancing recommendations to improve the development review process, and tackling state-issued mandates like the housing element and land use requirements,” said City Manager Alex D. McIntyre. “Peter brought many valuable initiatives forward in his time with us, and wish him all the best in his next endeavor.”

In the last three years, the Community Development Department has contributed to many important City Council goals. This includes drafting the 2021-2029 Housing Element, adopting an updated Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance, creating an expanded Permit Services Division and Housing Services Division, supporting the City’s commercial cannabis applications, improving the historic preservation process, and launching the General Plan Update process.

The Community Development Department is responsible for planning and zoning, building and safety, code enforcement, housing, and redevelopment for the City of Ventura. It ensures that new construction and additions to existing structures meet the policies and guidelines established for public safety, zoning, and development. The department also works closely with various City commissions and committees that help guide and advise the City Council regarding development in Ventura. Community Development has 45 full-time employees and an annual operating budget of over \$15.4 million.

“Ms. Zayer has been with the City for three years and demonstrated a broad range of industry knowledge, professional experience, and an inclusive approach that will complement the right blend of skills needed for the next chapter of our Community Development Department,” said McIntyre. “Neda’s leadership style in supporting the organization as well as our residents, businesses, and community partners is a tremendous asset for the City during this transition time.”

For more information about the City’s Community Development Department, visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov.

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