

PRESS RELEASE



Five Finalists Announced for Des Moines Community Development Director Public Reception 5:00 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11

For Immediate Release:

CONTACT:

Shekinah Young
Chief Communications Officer
Public Information Office
(515) 283-4057
smyoung@dmgov.org

DES MOINES, IOWA – Thursday, October 04, 2018 – The Des Moines city manager has narrowed the field of applicants for community development director to five candidates. These finalists will participate in a series of on-site events Thursday, Oct. 11 and Friday, Oct. 12. The process includes a city tour, public reception and interviews with city staff, community stakeholders, and City Manager Scott Sanders.

The national search for community development director produced 59 applications. Following the initial screening process, including telephone interviews, five candidates were selected for the on-site process: Cody Christensen, SuAnn Donovan, Christopher Johansen, Michael Ludwig, and Thomas Scannell.

Thursday, October 11: The candidates will tour the city then attend a public reception from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Bright Grandview Golf Course, 2401 East 29th Street. This reception is open to the public and interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Friday, October 12: The five candidates will be interviewed by four separate panels, including city staff and community stakeholders. Panels will then provide input to the city manager. City Manager Scott Sanders will conduct interviews with each candidate Friday afternoon. These interviews will conclude the on-site process.

Candidate Info Below

Cody J. Christensen is currently the permit and development administrator for the City of Des Moines and has served in this role since June 2015. His position is responsible for the operations and activities of the Permit and Development Division of the Community Development Department. Christensen has also served as building inspector, plans examiner, and deputy building official for the City of Des Moines. He received his bachelor's degree in animal ecology from Iowa State University and master's degree in public administration from Drake University.

SuAnn M. Donovan is currently the neighborhood inspection administrator for the City of Des Moines and has served in this role since November 2011. Her position is responsible for the operations and activities of the Neighborhood Inspection Zoning Division of the Community Development Department. Donovan has also served as deputy zoning enforcement officer for the City of Des Moines. She received

her bachelor's degree in sociology from University of Northern Iowa and certified public manager certificate from Drake University.

Christopher M. Johansen is currently the deputy director of Community Development/Neighborhood Planning and Conservation for the City of Des Moines and has served in this role since January 2011. His position is responsible for the operations and activities of the Neighborhood Development Division, Neighborhood Conservation Division, and the Community Investment Administration of the Community Development Department. He also serves as interim housing services director. Johansen has also served as administrative intern to the City Manager, management analyst, acting deputy housing services director, housing services director and assistant city manager. He received his bachelor's degree in political science and biology from Wartburg College and master's degree in public administration from Drake University.

Michael G. Ludwig is currently the planning administrator for the City of Des Moines and has served in this role since July 2001. His position is responsible for operations and activities of the Planning Division of the Community Development Department. Ludwig has also served as planning and development director for the City of Marion, Iowa; city planner for the City of Fort Collins, Colorado; and housing services analyst for the City of Sioux City, Iowa. He received his bachelor's degree in community and regional planning from Iowa State University and master's degree in business administration from University of Iowa.

Thomas F. Scannell is currently the community development director for the City of Independence, Missouri and has served in this role since July 2013. His position is responsible for the development and oversight of the Community Development Department. Scannell has also served as assistant community development director for the City of Independence, Missouri; and as planner, senior planner and current planning division manager for the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri. He received his bachelor's degree in community and regional planning from Iowa State University and his master's degree in urban and regional planning from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

For more information, contact the City of Des Moines Public Information Office at (515) 283-4057.

About the City of Des Moines

The City of Des Moines: Iowa's capital city and local government servicing more than 217,000 residents, 52 neighborhoods, more than 4,000 acres of parkland and 81 miles of trails. The City of Des Moines stands to be a financially strong city with exceptional city services, fostering an involved community in a customer friendly atmosphere. Visit <http://www.dmgov.org/>, Facebook <http://facebook.com/DesMoinesGov> and Twitter @DesMoinesGov for more information.

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