

Job Title: Director of Community Development and Planning

Area: Lafayette, LA

Organizational Overview:

The Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government is dedicated to sustainable growth and development. LCG is seeking a skilled and experienced Director of Community Development and Planning to lead a dynamic team in shaping the future of our City-Parish through strategic planning, effective zoning, land use planning, codes and streamlined permitting processes.

Department Overview

Development and Planning serves as a one-stop-shop for businesses and individuals involved in a variety of activities including developing property, zoning regulations, annexations, abandonments and historic property designations. The department also handles all permitting of construction projects, alcohol sales and bar cards, and the opening or relocating of businesses. Development and Planning works with the compliance of zoning and building regulations as well as condemnation of unsafe structures and is responsible for the implementation of Lafayette’s comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette.

Position Qualifications:

The Director of Community Development and Planning, will play a pivotal role in guiding the city-parish’s growth and development. This position requires a visionary leader with a strong understanding of urban and rural planning, zoning regulations, and permitting procedures. The successful candidate will collaborate with various stakeholders to ensure that development initiatives align with the city's vision and regulations.

A master’s degree in urban planning, public administration, or a related field is required or an equivalent combination of professional experience. The preferred candidate will possess proven experience, a minimum of 5 years, in a leadership role within planning, zoning, or permitting, preferably in a municipal setting. Knowledge of local, state, and federal planning regulations and zoning laws is a must; and familiarity with GIS and permitting software is a plus. The ideal candidate will possess strong communication and interpersonal skills to handle public forums and presentations to the Lafayette City-Parish councils.

This position will be responsible for leading and inspiring a team of professionals and facilitating certain regulatory commissions:

- Lafayette City Planning and Zoning Commission
- Lafayette Parish Planning Commission
- City of Lafayette Board of Zoning Adjustment

Key Responsibilities:

1. Strategic Comprehensive Planning:

- Lead implementation of the parish-wide comprehensive plan, Plan Lafayette and be responsible for oversight of the Lafayette Development Code. Planning efforts should consider addressing land use, transportation, and community development.
- Provide strategic guidance to support sustainable and responsible growth both in the City and unincorporated areas of the parish.

2. Zoning and Development Oversight:

- Manage and enforce zoning regulations to ensure compliance with city ordinances and state laws.
- Collaborate with relevant department to draft, review, and update development codes as needed.
- Manage and enforce zoning and subdivision regulations to ensure that developments are designed and developed in a manner that conforms to the overall community plan and zoning regulations.

3. Permitting Process Management:

- Oversee the permitting process, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and compliance with relevant regulations.
- Implement improvements to streamline and expedite permitting procedures.

4. Community Engagement:

- Engage with the community, developers, and other stakeholders to gather input on planning and zoning matters. Work with neighborhood stakeholders to plan, identify and implement catalytic and strategic investments.
- Facilitate public hearings and meetings to discuss proposed developments and zoning changes.

5. Interdepartmental Collaboration:

- Work closely with other LCG Departments and key partners, including engineering, public works, utilities and economic development agencies, to ensure alignment in planning and development efforts.
- Collaborate with external agencies and organizations on local and regional planning initiatives.

6. Budget Management:

- Develop and manage the departmental budget, allocating resources effectively to support planning, zoning, and permitting functions.
- Identify opportunities for cost savings and efficiency improvements.

How to Apply:

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resume, a cover letter, and professional references to applicant@LafayetteLA.gov include "Director of Community Development and Planning" in the job interest subject line.