



NEWS RELEASE

JOHN F. YOUNG, JR.
PARISH PRESIDENT

February 17, 2011

JEFFERSON PARISH PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT OF DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY DIRECTORS

Jefferson Parish President John F. Young announced today the continuing employment of the following department and agency Directors. "Staffing decisions for leadership positions within parish government remain a high priority for this Administration," Young stated. "Our commitment to have the best and brightest serve the public is unwavering, and Jefferson Parish employees who have exceptional service records, proven leadership skills and a solid vision for transparency and accountability are given strong consideration in our employment search process."

D. Ryan Brown will continue serving as the Director of Transit Administration. The four employee department is charged with the direct administrative supervision over the public transit functions of the parish and taxicab regulation and licensing. A parish employee since 2005, Brown coordinates the activities of the parish's transportation services vendor which operates 35 transit vehicles over eleven bus routes throughout the parish. In 2010, there were 1.957 million riders served.

Mark R. Drewes has served as a civil engineer in parish government since 2001, and currently is the Director of Engineering. Drewes, who received his state Professional Engineer license in 1987, holds a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from LSU and a Master's degree in civil engineering from the University of New Orleans. The Department of Engineering has 107 employees who coordinate and oversee the operations of the eight engineering-related divisions which make up the department; Traffic, Roads and Bridges, Utility, Drafting, Survey, Inspection, Data Technology, and Street Lighting.

Working at all levels within the Department of Planning since 1984, Edwin J. Durabb has been its Director since 1992. A long-standing member of the American Planning Association, Durabb's expertise in land use matters has been called upon to research and publish numerous comprehensive plans and other related publications. He graduated from LSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Geography, and received a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from UNO. The 22 employees of the Department of Planning provide for the administration of zoning and subdivision related matters, site plan reviews, special land use studies, and participation in regional planning activities.

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Since 1992, Director of Risk Management William E. Fortenberry is responsible for ensuring effective risk management practices for all parish government operations. Fortenberry's prior experience is in insurance claims work at the municipal and state government levels and in the private sector. There are 5 employees in Department of Risk Management, which seeks to identify all potential sources of loss and to establish a method to assist parish departments in minimizing or eliminating their risks through loss control implementation.

The Department of General Services is responsible for the administration of the maintenance and operation of parish-owned buildings such as the courthouses, libraries, senior centers, correctional facilities, animal shelters, and garages. Anthony L. Francis, Jr., will continue as the Director of the 62-employee department which also provides for the centralized administration of other intergovernmental services which include messenger mail, parcel delivery, and the control and disposal of all surplus property. Francis began his parish service in 1985 and holds certification in several building trades.

Twenty-eight year parish employee Clinton 'C.J.' Gibson will continue as the Director of the parish's Department of Parks and Recreation. The 322-employee department oversees a host of athletic and leisure-time facilities which feature or accommodate a wide variety of sport and other recreational activities. Parish government operates 27 playgrounds, three parks, four Seniors' centers and 28 satellite venues located throughout the unincorporated portion of the parish and in Grand Isle and Lafitte,

Gregory C. Guthrie, General Manager of the John A. Alario Sr. Event Center and Segnette Field, will continue to oversee the facilities comprising the Bayou Segnette Sports Complex. Working for the multi-use facility since 1998, Guthrie is responsible for all phases of its operations, including marketing and development, property management, event planning, and administration.

Wayne J. Ory is the Coordinator of the Office of Senior Citizens' Services within the Department of Citizens' Affairs. Improving the quality of life for the 86,000+ senior citizens residing in Jefferson Parish is the central focus of the seven employee office. Ory, a Loyola University graduate with a Bachelor of Arts and Commerce degree works closely with the Jefferson Council on Aging in the delivery of meaningful recreational, health and service programs.

A state registered Professional Engineer since 1993, Mitchell T. Theriot is the Director of 268-employee Department of Water. Hired by Jefferson Parish in 1997, Theriot also worked as an engineer for roads and bridges and for drainage. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering from LSU and worked for the state and in the private sector before his parish employment. The Department of Water is responsible for the treatment, storage and distribution of the parish's potable water supply that serves 133,073 residential service accounts and 12,496 commercial service accounts.

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Community Development Programs Director Anatola B. Thompson graduated from Alcorn State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting. After working in private industry, Thompson began her parish government service in 2004 as the Director of Workforce Connection before being appointed to her current position in 2006. Her 20-employee department has direct administrative supervision over community development program functions of the parish, which include the Community Development Block Grant Program, Home Investment Partnerships Program, and Emergency Shelter Grant Program.

Enrolling over 14,000 job seekers in 2010, the Department of Workforce Connection will continue to be directed by Sharon Wegner. A retired public school educator and administrator, Wegner holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Loyola University and a Master of Education degree in administration and supervision from Nicholls State University. She coordinates the administration of the federal Workforce Investment Act provisions for Jefferson Parish through her 20 parish employees and an equal number of onsite state employees. The department's director since 2007, Wegner was instrumental in preparing the parish's Local Workforce Investment Area certification documents.

Margaret 'Marnie' Winter is the Director of Environmental Affairs since 2000, and has provided environmental-related services with parish government since 1982. She received her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in biological sciences from UNO, and is active in numerous local, state and national professional and public policy advisory organizations. The principal programs administered by her department's 25 employees relate to industrial sewage pretreatment, storm water management, underground storage tank compliance and coastal zone management. The department also acts as the parish's lead agency on all matters regarding air quality, solid waste disposal, hazardous waste, ground water quality, coastal restoration, noise and wildlife management, and recycling.

The Director of the Department of Capital Projects since 2001, Reda M. Youssef received his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Alexandria University in Egypt, and Master of Science Degree in civil engineering from Tulane University. Youssef is a state registered Professional Engineer, whose department provides support services to the parish's public works departments through the development, preparation and administration of professional service contracts for capital improvement projects.

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