



News Release

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor of Shelby County
11th Floor, Vasco A. Smith Administration Building
160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103
&
Jim Strickland, Mayor, City of Memphis
7th Floor, Memphis City Hall
125 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

November 14, 2017

New Director Chosen for the Memphis-Shelby County Division of Planning and Development



Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. and City of Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland have appointed John Zeanah as the new Director of the Memphis-Shelby County Division of Planning and Development. He currently serves as the Deputy Director of the joint city-county division.

Zeanah's appointment will have to be approved by both the Shelby County Commission and Memphis City Council. Current Director Rick Copeland announced his retirement today, effective January 2, 2018.

“I’m pleased to appoint John for this position. He’ll be an innovative leader in this very important role with both Memphis and Shelby County Governments, said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

“John’s experience and knowledge ensures the Memphis-Shelby County Division of Planning and Development will continue to have competent, effective leadership,” said City of Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland.

The Memphis-Shelby County Division of Planning and Development oversees land use, comprehensive planning, sustainability and resilience, transportation, housing, and construction code enforcement.

Zeanah initiated the creation of the city’s Office of Comprehensive Planning tasked with the development of the Memphis 3.0 comprehensive plan and previously served as Program Manager and Administrator for the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability.

He also led the development of the Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan, a unified vision for a regional network of green space connecting across the Greater Memphis area, and Shelby County's Greenprint for Resilience initiative, which received over \$60 million in HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition.

“I accept this challenge to serve the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County. Indeed, our region has so much potential. This office serves as a hub for spurring economic growth and the enhancement of residential and commercial areas throughout the entire county,” said Zeanah.

Rick Copeland leaves his post as Director of the Memphis-Shelby County Division of Planning and Development with 29 years of combined service with Shelby County Government and Memphis City Government.

He first joined Shelby County Government in June 1975 as Assistant to the Chairman of the Quarterly Court, the legislative body before the creation of the current Shelby County Commission.

Copeland was formerly an Assistant Shelby County Attorney and Assistant Chief Administrative Officer at Shelby County Government.

Under Copeland’s leadership, the Unified Development Code (UDC) was adopted. It was the first major rewriting of the zoning codes in approximately thirty 30 years.

(End of Release)

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