

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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For immediate release

August 12, 2011

City of Newburgh Department of Planning & Development Announces Staffing Changes

The Department of Planning & Development has announced some staffing changes, but visitors will be pleased to see some familiar faces in addition to new ones.

City Planner Ian MacDougall has been named Acting Director of Planning & Development. Ian, a Newburgh resident, has worked for the City of Newburgh for six years. He was instrumental in the development of the Master Plan, alternate side of the street parking and the R-2 zoning district. As Acting Director of Planning and Development, in addition to day-to-day operations of the department, Ian will be responsible for managing brownfields, finalizing the future landuse plan, reviewing development applications for the planning board, staffing the IDA, and working to strengthen economic development.

He holds a Masters Degree of Urban and Rural Planning (MURP), a B.A. with Honors, in Geography, and is certified as a Geographic Information Systems Technician. He is a member of the American Planning Association.

Greta Simmons and Felix Medina have joined the team, Ms. Simmons as Housing Loan Officer, and Mr. Medina as Code Enforcement Officer.

A former IBM'er, Ms. Simmons worked as a Branch Manager for local banks in the area. A graduate of SUNY Buffalo with a B.S. in Business Administration, Ms. Simmons is currently working towards her MBA. A Newburgh native, she stated, "I want to work in my community to help homeowners access funds to rehabilitate their properties." She added, "The biggest challenges we face are getting sound businesses and owner-occupied residences back in the community."

Her duties include managing the application/underwriting process for home improvement loans and grants administered through the Department of Planning & Development.

Felix Medina spent five years in the City of Newburgh Code Compliance Department, assisting applicants with obtaining necessary permits and approvals from the various boards, and conducting inspections of properties during and after construction. His new job is similar, as he will ensure that all phases of construction on properties financed through the Department of Planning & Development comply with New York State and City of Newburgh codes.

Felix, also a Newburgh native who still resides in the East End, said, “My biggest challenge is to somehow impact this entire City into wanting to improve its standard of living both physically and spiritually. The fact that I am Hispanic helps me to bring awareness of City processes to the Spanish-speaking community, which makes up more than 50% of our population.”