

Fact Sheet

Department Head:

Amanda DiMeo

Full Time Employees:

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The Economic Development Department has the primary responsibility for conceptualizing, initiating, and implementing the economic development vision for the City. On a daily basis, the department assists existing businesses with expansions needs, recruits new businesses, and generally promotes business development resulting in capital investment and employment opportunities. The department serves as a general source of economic development information for businesses that are interested in the City. In addition, the department is responsible for the City's public sector efforts regarding employment creation and capital investment. It manages public-private partnership development projects, including Green Hills Industry and Technology Center, and the development of Staunton Crossing.

The department serves as staff to the Staunton Economic Development Authority (EDA). This body, which consist of seven members, is appointed by City Council to 4-year terms. EDAs are separate political subdivisions of the Commonwealth and are "tools" for local governments to use in providing economic development incentives or other assistance to private businesses. EDAs may own property, lease property, sell property, make grants, accept gifts, and have other powers but do not have taxing power. The EDA owns the Staunton Crossing property.

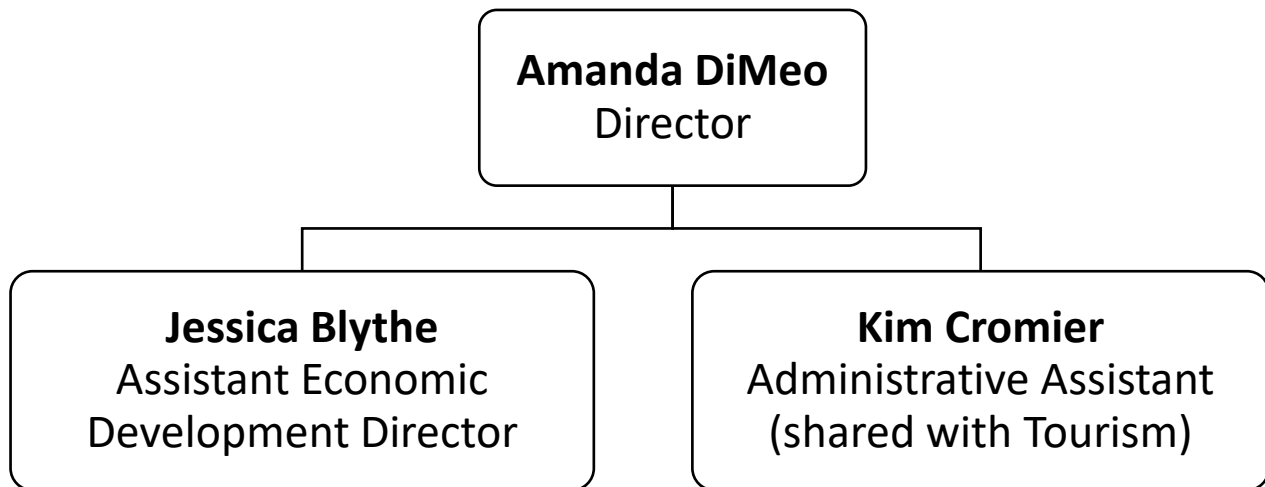
The Assistant Director has the lead responsibility of the City's economic development marketing materials and publications. This position also administers the Staunton Enterprise Zone (EZ) incentive program which includes the development and updating of all EZ program guidelines and marketing materials, the preparation and submittal of state annual report, and the review and approval of EZ incentive applications. Coordinating with the Director, the position develops economic development branding and marketing themes, supervises design and production of printed, video and electronic marketing materials, including the economic development website, and social media. The assistant works closely with partner agencies to develop and implement small business development initiatives and assists the Director with the Business Retention and Expansion Program efforts.

Initiatives

- Building a Robust Business Retention and Expansion Program
- Staunton Crossing Redevelopment
- Staunton Enterprise Zone Administration
- Economic Development Grant Administration

Economic Development Department

Organizational Structure



Fact Sheet

Department Head:

Rodney Rhodes

Full Time Employees:

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The Community Development Department is responsible for reviewing, developing and administering plans that reflect the city's interest in the preservation of historic resources; protection of the environment; the provision of efficient design while recognizing the city's unique and natural features alongside the implementation of public facilities and services; and the effective utilization of the city's resources. The department is also responsible for planning and projects focused on housing. Created in January 2017, the department is composed of four major functional areas that are interdependent and mutually supportive, and consisting of the following divisions:

Building Services Division: Responsible for the review of construction-related plans and the issuance of permits associated with building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical work as required by the Uniform Statewide Building Code. The division also assists with the interpretation and enforcement of federal floodplain regulations. With regards to property maintenance issues, the division enforces the maintenance of neglected properties. The division serves as staff to the Board of Building Code Appeals.

Environmental Programs Division: Responsible for all aspects of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Department of Environmental Quality compliance of the Erosion and Sediment Control and Storm Water Management programs for the city to include: the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4 Program), the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program, the Virginia Stormwater Management Program, and the Stormwater Utility Fee Program. The division serves as staff to the Lewis Creek Watershed Advisory Committee.

Planning and Zoning Division: Responsible for all aspects of planning, zoning, and subdivision activities. Staff is responsible for recommending general planning policies, reviewing various applications, professional/technical planning activities, and preparing plans, ordinance amendments, programs, projects and public information on planning activities. The division is staff to the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Housing Programs Division: Responsible for advising and leading the City's housing activities, policies, and initiatives with an emphasis on affordable housing and housing for working families. In addition, the Division administers the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program that is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This division will serve as staff to the Housing Commission.

Initiatives

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Flood Mitigation Projects: Flood shields, tunnel improvements & maintenance, and flood sensors/warning system.
- Greenways Plan and Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Development and Implementation
- Entrance Corridor Design Guidelines Revision
- Historic District Design Guidelines Revision
- Cole Avenue and Gypsy Hill Park Stream Restoration Projects
- Uniontown Neighborhood Plan Development and Implementation
- West End Revitalization Strategy Development
- HUD Community Development Block Grant Program administration
- Housing Strategy Plan Development

