

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

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For more information, contact:

Nancy C. Lineman
Chief, Community Outreach and Media Relations
The Montgomery County Planning Board
301/495-4600

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD ANNOUNCES SELECTION PROCESS
FOR PERMANENT PLANNING DIRECTOR POSITION**

SILVER SPRING, MD – The Montgomery County Planning Board announced the extensive process that will be used to identify and select a permanent planning department director for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Montgomery County.

Last month, the Planning Board decided to split the top position at the agency and reestablished a parks department and planning department. The Planning Board selected Mary Bradford – a parks professional with more than 30 years experience -- to serve as parks director.

“We intend to attract the best and brightest to Montgomery County and will make every effort to ensure appropriate due diligence at each stage of our process,” said Planning Board Chairman Derick Berlage.

A national search for a permanent planning director began last fall when M-NCPPC contracted with the PAR Group – a nationally recognized executive search firm in Chicago. That company’s president is personally leading the agency’s search for a permanent director. Comments provided to the County Council by former Planning Board Chairman Royce Hanson were shared with the search firm.

The executive search firm will meet with and gather perspectives from leaders of key community groups, agency division chiefs, members of the Montgomery County Council’s Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee and its staff. All of the input collected will be shared with the five members of the Planning Board.

Berlage said that M-NCPPC Executive Director Trudye Morgan Johnson will serve as the agency’s representative and coordinator of the process. Johnson has surveyed Park and Planning staff regarding the qualities they seek in a planning leader. Additional internal focus groups may also be held as the process unfolds.

After an initial screening, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed by the search firm. Following the first round of interviews, top-tier candidates will be interviewed by a panel of regional planning directors and select M-NCPPC staff. After the second round of interviews, candidates will be ranked and recommended to the Planning Board.

Observations from the community interviews will be forwarded to the Planning Board for consideration during their interview process. The entire package of finalists will be provided to the Planning Board for interview consideration.

Advertisements for the position have been placed with the American Planning Association, the National Association of Counties and on various websites.

Interested applicants for the position must have at least 12 years of progressive experience; at least five years at the department manager level. Applicants must have master's degree (JD also acceptable) from an accredited college or university in planning, urban design, architecture, environmental science or a related field of study.

The director will oversee one of the nation's leading planning departments, help craft an \$18 million annual budget and manage 145 career staff currently assigned to six organizational divisions. In addition, the director will oversee programmatic functions including the long-range general plan, master and sector plans, preparation of the county's biennial growth policy, recommendations on zoning map and text amendments, comprehensive development regulation, and research and analysis of development and growth issues.

Those interested in the position must send completed applications/resumes by Thursday, April 25, 2006. Visit <http://www.mncppc.org/index.cfm?id=1job> for a complete job description.

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