

**THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
PRESS RELEASE**

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**PLANNING BOARD NAMES ACTING DIRECTOR TO COMPLETE SENIOR
MANAGEMENT REFORM TEAM FOR PARK AND PLANNING**

SILVER SPRING, MD - The Montgomery County Planning Board announced today their selection of Faroll Hamer to be acting director of the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning while the national search for a permanent director continues. She brings nearly 20 years of hands-on experience in development review, urban design, management and public policy to the agency.

Since 1998, Hamer has served as chief of development review for the Prince George's County Department of Planning. Prior to her managing the day-to-day operations and a staff of 45, Hamer spent 10 years supervising the urban design section of the department. She joined the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1987.

As acting director, Hamer will oversee the day-to-day of the department. She will report to the five-member Planning Board.

Hamer has a Master's Degree in landscape architecture from Morgan State University and a Bachelor's Degree from Smith College. She is a registered landscape architect.

"We have assembled a team of experts in development review, budget oversight and personnel management to accelerate reforms badly needed at Park and Planning," said Chairman Derick Berlage. "The addition of Faroll Hamer completes our interim leadership team that will focus on restructuring and reforming this important agency."

"I am pleased to be part of the leadership team for this agency that has such a direct impact on the quality of life in the region," said Hamer. "I am looking forward to addressing the challenges and revitalizing the way in which development reviews are conducted."

Last month, the Planning Board announced the selection of Bob Kendal, a well-known budget analyst with decades of experience in county government operations, to assist the agency in reallocating resources to ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability.

Prior to the retirement of its former director, the Planning Board selected Bill Mooney to serve as acting deputy director to institute structural and procedural changes throughout the agency. Thus far, more than 20 reforms have been instituted and 15 staff members have been reassigned to the development review division.

In addition to her expertise in development review, Hamer has written legislation, formulated budgets, revised complicated zoning ordinances and has an impeccable record of reconciling the interests of community members and developers. She has also played a key role in preserving Prince George's rural areas.

"Ms. Hamer is absolutely the right person at the right time. She has a tremendous amount of expertise in development review and I am enthusiastic about her joining us in making changes to our structure and operations to restore the agency's credibility in the community," said Mooney.

As the chief of development review in Prince George's County, Hamer has successfully handled the complex reviews of such well known and projects as National Harbor, the Boulevard at the Capital Center and Fedex Field.

"There's no doubt that Ms. Hamer is among our most outstanding solution-oriented employees," said Prince George's Planning Board Chairwoman Elizabeth Hewlett. "Montgomery County has successfully lured one of the brightest hardest working people in government today - at the exact time they need her."

"From what I know of Ms. Hamer, she seems to have what is necessary to provide leadership and direction at Park and Planning," said Montgomery County Council President George Leventhal. "I am glad to see the agency taking this important step."

"Faroll Hamer is an outstanding solution-oriented planning professional," said Prince George's County Planning Board Chairman Elizabeth M. Hewlett. "We are gratified that Ms. Hamer is willing to share her skills and expertise with the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, and we know that she will be of great assistance to the department as they continue to refine their operating procedures."

Hamer will begin her tenure as acting director of the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning on Wednesday, December 14. Personnel officials said that a permanent director will not be named until the completion of an exhaustive national search - likely in summer or fall of 2006.

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