

GET Committee

From: Tamara A. Paltin
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:55 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Fwd: Confirmation of Michele Mclean as Planning Director

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From: David Yamashita <davidy76@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 5:38:01 AM
To: Tamara A. Paltin
Subject: Confirmation of Michele Mclean as Planning Director

1 February 2019

Aloha Councilmember Paltin,

I am writing to ask you to support the nomination of Michele McLean as the Director of the Department of Planning. Between 2009 and 2016, I worked in the Long-Range Division of the Planning Department, serving as a supervisor for the division's planners. I worked with Michele for six of those seven years and what I saw was a person who is smart, always prepared, thoroughly understands the county's land use codes and practices, is a good listener, and is fair and decisive.

She was never afraid to deal with tough issues and from what I observed, always treated people - whether they were staff or the public -- fairly and with respect. What I also saw constantly was someone who knew how to work well with her staff, the public, and how to address personnel issues in an even-handed way.

Michele also is one of the most capable directors that I've worked with in my 40 years as a professional planner. After receiving my graduate degree in urban and regional planning, I began my career as an urban planner in 1979 with most of that time spent on the mainland working for the City of Portland, Oregon. Over four decades, I've worked with many directors and deputies. Of those, I recall just a few who in my opinion, consistently exhibited high levels of professional leadership and conduct in their work and as a manager of a department's staff. Michele is definitely in that group.

Serving as a planning director is tough -- issues can be complex and sometimes, the public is unaware of the "big picture" or the constraints imposed by codes and ordinances. It takes a very skillful director to navigate this, all the while under a public microscope. Over the six years I worked with her, Michele demonstrated how skillful she was at doing this so many times and in so many ways. This is the side of her that perhaps people don't see.

I know this task is a hard one and I hope you can support Michele's nomination and allow her to continue to lead the Planning Department into the future.

Sincerely,

David M. Yamashita