



OFFICE OF MAYOR ANDY SCHOR

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Mayor Andy Schor Announces DeLisa Fountain as New Director of the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement

(LANSING) – Mayor Andy Schor today announced his appointment of DeLisa Fountain as Lansing’s next Director of the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement (DNCE). Fountain currently serves as the Neighborhood Resource Coordinator in DNCE, as well as the Mayor’s Community Outreach Coordinator. She has been with the City of Lansing since 2014.

“DeLisa Fountain is very qualified to lead the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement as she has 10 years of community outreach experience. She is a life-long Lansing resident, and I am thrilled to welcome her to my executive team,” said Mayor Schor. “DeLisa has been instrumental in the success of the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement since its inception in 2018 when I took office.”

Fountain previously served as a Lead Community Organizer and Project Manager with One Love Global and Nurturing Early On is Necessary (N.E.O.N.), as a team member with the Birth to Work Initiative and as an Income Tax Examiner, as well as Customer Service Specialist in the City of Lansing’s Treasurer’s Office. Fountain is a graduate of Davenport University.

“I am appreciative of the opportunity to continue to serve, engage and build the capacity of neighborhoods in Lansing. Born and raised in Lansing (Go Big Reds!), I know first-hand how important it is to have neighborhoods and civic organizations thrive in our City and I know how vital it is to continue thriving for my children, my family and my community,” said Fountain.

Current DNCE Director Andrea Crawford has chosen to pursue other opportunities when her contract ends on December 31, 2020.

Schor said, “Andrea Crawford has done an outstanding job leading the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement. She brought in the right team to serve our neighborhoods and I thank her for her incredible service to the City of Lansing. I am confident that DeLisa Fountain will build on Andrea’s work, and further improve the neighborhoods of Lansing, as well as help residents through our award-winning Office of Financial Empowerment.”

[more]

DNCE has continued to engage citizens, advance people and build neighborhoods, even amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights of the department's work this year include:

- In 2020, the department provided staff support and administrative oversight to administer \$65,472.92 to 71 different projects designed and executed by civic organizations through the Neighborhood Grant Program.
- In-person events and forums designed by the department for the Lansing community such as Walking Wednesdays and Citizens Academy were transformed to become entirely virtual.
- Neighborhoods in Bloom and Neighborhood Clean Ups were also adjusted to meet proper safety requirements and follow all COVID-19 restrictions. Even though large gatherings couldn't be held, 213 Neighborhoods in Bloom kits were delivered to 30 organizations and 6 smaller scale clean-ups were held.
- As of December 4, 2020, 394 clients have received 741 financial counseling sessions. \$434,343 in non-mortgage debt reduction was achieved this year, and \$49,568k in savings increase. 57 clients increased their credit score by 35+ points, and 90 clients reduced their non-mortgage debt by 10% or more in 12 months. 113 clients reduced the number of delinquent accounts on their credit report.
- Lansing SAVE's Community Champions, Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Faith Fellowship Baptist Church, have adopted about 150 Lansing SAVE students each. Community Champions have raised over \$11,318 for students in their neighborhoods since the program began in March 2019. 5,160 SAVE accounts. 26% participation rate (percentage of families who have made a deposit to their accounts - highest in the nation for universal accounts)
- Offender Success Reentry Citizen Support Program:
 - Job Placement Enrollments - 205
 - Job Placements - 85
 - 12-Month Job Retention Rate - 25.3%
 - Housing Enrollments - 90
 - Average Length of Stay in Housing - 120 days
 - Days of Homelessness Prevented - 8,317

Beginning January 1, 2021, Fountain will serve as Interim Director of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement. Pending City Council's approval, Fountain will begin her new role on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

[Click here to read the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement Annual Report.](#)