



MICHAEL S. YENNI
MAYOR

CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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KENNER ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE TEAM

Kenner, LA. – The departure of former Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni, who was sworn in Wednesday as Jefferson Parish President, created several openings within the Kenner administration – many of which have already been filled.

Assistant Personnel Director Maria Leon has been named Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. Leon, who has spent the past three years in the Personnel Department, replaces Natalie Newton, who has moved on to a position in the parish. Bret Dardar, personnel processor for the past five years, has been named Assistant Personnel Director.

Stephen Michael Petit Jr. has been appointed director of the Code Enforcement Department and Mary-Sharon Howland is the new director of the Clerk of Court. Former Code director Aimee Vallot and former Clerk of Court Tamithia Shaw are taking jobs in Jefferson Parish.

Jay Sprague takes over as director of the Information Technology & Telecommunications Department. Former IT Director Valerie Waguespack is working for Yenni in the parish.

In the Finance Department, senior accountant Jean Caillouet, CPA, will be acting interim assistant director. He temporarily takes over the duties of Assistant Director Victor Larocca, who is taking a job in Jefferson Parish. Caillouet has been with the city 8 ½ years.

Chief Administrative Officer Mike Quigley said Kenner will be losing some excellent people, not the least of which is Yenni. “But the mayor was very careful to select some very qualified replacements. I am excited about the new additions to our team.”

Leon, an attorney and graduate of Loyola College of Law, said she was grateful for the opportunity and excited to take on additional responsibilities. “I am lucky to be part of a great team here in Kenner,” she said. “I will work hard to do all I can to continue the momentum that Mayor Yenni and Mike Quigley created over the past five years. I am very excited for the new challenges this position brings and the opportunity to better serve the City of Kenner and its citizens.”

Petit, who graduated from Tulane Law School and has been in private practice for 11 years, also previously worked as a police officer with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Harahan Police Department and St. Charles Sheriff's Office.

"As a Kenner resident I am looking forward to doing my part to keep the city moving in the positive direction set forth in recent years," he said. "I want to thank the administration for giving me this chance to work for the betterment of my community."

Howland has previous experience in Kenner. She was director of the Community Services Department from 2006 to 2011 and also spent nearly six months as assistant director of the Purchasing Department. For the past 3 ½ years, Howland worked as a property manager for 1st Lake Properties.

"I am very excited about coming back to the city," she said. "I really enjoy government work, it's an opportunity to provide a service to a lot of people and I'm very service-oriented both in my work history and in my activities in the community."

Sprague moves up from the position of IT Systems Specialist, and has a total of 17 years with the city, including 15 years in IT.

"I want to thank the administration for their confidence in me," Sprague said. "I look forward to continuing the work we have done to make it easier for city employees to assist the public."

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