

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
"Kelley, Gil" <Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 2/20/2019 8:41:19 PM  
**Subject:** Appointment of Deputy Director of Planning for Current Planning

Greetings Mayor and Council

Please find below a staffing announcement for a great new City of Vancouver staff in the Planning Urban Design and Sustainability Department.

Best  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Afochs Johnston** | City Manager  
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*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*

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**From:** Kelley, Gil  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 10:33 AM  
**To:** PDS All Staff - DL  
**Cc:** City Leadership Team - DL; Patrk, Luca; Mochrie, Paul; Johnston, Sadhu; Jong, Teresa  
**Subject:** Appointment of Deputy Director of Planning for Current Planning

I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Theresa O'Donnell in the role of Deputy Director of Planning for Current Planning.

She comes to us from the City of Dallas, Texas, where she lead, as Director (equivalent to a General Manager), the Department of Sustainable Development and Construction for ten years. Her responsibilities in that role included overseeing the functions of long range planning, urban design, transportation planning, economic development, current planning, historic preservation, building inspections and permits, engineering, and real estate services. A major achievement in her tenure as Director was that she unified five independent departments into a single, cohesive business unit charged with providing seamless service delivery to the development community.

Most recently, Theresa served as the Interim Assistant City Manager for Dallas, where she directed and lead the departments of Sustainable Development and Construction, Housing and Community Services Department, Aviation, and the Office of Fair Housing. In this role she was able to lead the creation of the Neighborhood Plus Plan in collaboration with others to examine economic and demographic trends and geospatial distribution of housing to re-conceptualize housing goals, programs and policies and align those changes with the city's Consolidated Plan and the Analysis of Impediments. She was also, most currently, Chief Resilience Officer, overseeing their Resilient Dallas Strategy. There, she developed an Equity Indicator tool that led to the creation of an Office of Equity and Human Rights with the City of Dallas, as well as held the role of Chief of Neighborhood Plus, where she created an innovative inter-departmental, proactive approach to partnering with neighbourhood groups, service providers, non-profits, and private sector business to improve the livability and desirability of Dallas' low and moderate-income neighbourhoods, among many other achievements.

As Deputy Director of Planning for Current Planning, Theresa will oversee the Rezoning, Development Planning, Heritage and Landscape teams where she will focus on making process and regulatory improvements and enhance connections with other Divisions in PDS. She will also serve as a critical bridge to other city departments and the development community, as well as the community at large.

Many excellent candidates put their names forward for this exciting role and I was pleased to see the continued interest in working for the City of Vancouver from professionals across North America. I am particularly honoured that someone of Theresa's caliber will be joining the team here at the City. I believe she will bring the right mix of deep experience, a keen sense of awareness and highly developed interpersonal skills to the job.

From Theresa: *"As a planning professional, it is truly an honor to be selected as Deputy Planning Director in Vancouver, a city renowned for its commitment to the highest standard of urban planning in North America. I am excited to join Gil's team and eagerly look forward to meeting all my future colleagues. On a more personal note, my family and I are thrilled to become new residents of one of most livable cities in the world with unparalleled natural beauty and a vibrant urban life."*

Theresa and her partner have two young girls who are eager to get settled in Vancouver and will be relocating in the coming weeks.

Please join me in welcoming Theresa to the team when she officially arrives on March 18th, and make sure you say hello to her as she settles in to her new role in Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability.

Gil

**Gil Kelley, FAICP**

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