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City Manager search moves forward with selection of firm

HARRISONBURG, Va. — The City of Harrisonburg has partnered with executive search firm Baker Tilly to seek candidates for the position of Harrisonburg City Manager.

Harrisonburg City Council voted in December to appoint long-time Deputy City Manager Ande Banks as interim city manager, following the resignation of Eric Campbell, who had served in the role since January 2018. The search for candidates for the permanent position will now get underway, with the position posting and a recruitment brochure available later this month and the selection of the next Harrisonburg city manager expected to take place in the spring.

The recruitment process will include the opportunity for citizen input into the qualities and experience desired in candidates for the city manager position. City officials will provide more information on engagement opportunities in the coming weeks.

"We are very pleased to partner with the great team at Baker Tilly as we move forward on this important process," Harrisonburg Human Resources Director Angela Clem said. "I am positive this effort will result in The Friendly City attracting and selecting the best possible candidate for our community."

Baker Tilly is an accomplished recruitment firm, which has helped place more than 100 executives into city government positions across the country since 2016. The Harrisonburg search will be led by Edward Williams, Ph.D., who has more than 20 years of collective experience in human resources and organizational development at various levels including state and municipal government.

Updates on the Harrisonburg city manager search will be posted to the City's social media pages when available.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to 51,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.

ANDE BANKS APPOINTED INTERIM CITY MANAGER

Harrisonburg Deputy City Manager Ande Banks, a lifelong resident of The Friendly City who also has served as the City's Assistant to the City Manager (2016-2017) and as the Director of Special Projects and Grants Manager (2009-2016), officially moved into the interim role on Jan. 1, 2022. Banks previously served as interim manager during the city manager search in 2017, and stepped into the position with a wealth of experience overseeing City departments and representing Harrisonburg on multiple boards and commissions.

"While change is never easy, the essential services we provide our residents cannot be impacted," Banks, who has served as deputy city manager since 2017, said. "The Executive Leadership team and I will continue to focus on ensuring our staff have the resources to meet the daily mission of providing the very best level of service for our residents."

Banks attended the Senior Executive Institute at the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service in 2019, completed his Master's in Public Administration from JMU in 2017, and achieved a Certificate in Local Government Management from Virginia Tech in 2013.

"With the appointment of Ande Banks as interim city manager, we are ensuring that your local government will continue moving forward under experienced and trusted leadership from someone who has diligently served this community for many years," Harrisonburg Mayor Deanna Reed said.