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News Release

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Share! #Durham Community Development hires Karen Lado as new assistant director of its Strategy Division to focus on affordable housing

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Durham Community Development Assistant Director of Strategy Announced

DURHAM, NC. – City of Durham Community Development Director Reginald J. Johnson has named Karen M. Lado as the department's new assistant director of strategy.

In this redefined position, which is part of a staff realignment, Lado will direct programs, projects, operations and staff of the new Strategy Division of the department. She will be tasked researching and recommending a variety of financing methods and policy tools to support affordable housing goals and strategies as well as conducting data-driven analysis of market conditions. Lado will also be responsible for overseeing short- and long-term monitoring of the department's project portfolio while coordinating with other City departments, including the Durham City-County Planning Department, Transportation Department and the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, to ensure the connection between affordable housing goals and strategies takes place with long-range planning efforts.

Prior to joining the department on August 29, Lado served as an independent consultant and led a team from Enterprise Community Partners on a multi-phase consulting engagement to define Durham's [affordable housing goals](#) and strategies for the next five years, and to build internal capacity and put in place programs to achieve these goals. As a consultant, her other clients included Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, Wake County and GoTriangle. Lado also served as vice president and regional operating officer for Enterprise Community Partners in Denver, Colo. and Durham, N.C. as well as a project manager for Chemonics International, Inc. in Washington, D.C.

According to Johnson, Lado was chosen for this position due to her 20 years of experience in community development, including her experience promoting affordable housing in transit corridors. “Karen knows Durham’s housing challenges very well due to her previous work in preparing Durham’s Housing Profile and our affordable housing goals and strategies,” Johnson said. “In her new role with the department, she will work closely with our team and partners to develop and organize so we can achieve the affordable housing outcomes we want in Durham.”

Lado holds a master’s in City and Regional Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. She also holds a master’s in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wis. and a bachelor’s degree in Biology from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

About the City of Durham Community Development Department

The [Community Development Department](#) is responsible for coordinating the City’s housing resources and various housing assistance programs as well as promoting affordable housing by working with investors and community housing development organizations. The department also administers the City’s entitlement programs from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. Guided by the City’s [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps to ensure that the City has thriving, livable neighborhoods by enhancing housing quality and affordability for Durham residents.

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