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## Dubuque Names New Economic Development Director

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Following a national search, Dubuque City Manager Michael Van Milligen has appointed Maurice Jones as Dubuque’s new economic development director. Jones will start on Monday, Oct. 7, and replaces former Economic Development Director Dave Heiar who retired in June.

“Maurice is an exceptionally talented and high-quality economic development professional who will help the City continue to be a contributing partner in the implementation of a high-performing economic development strategy,” said Van Milligen.

Jones was previously a managing partner with Paratus Scientia, LLC, a strategic organizational design and development firm comprised of a network of professionals providing services ranging from organizational assessments and strategic planning, to operational transformation design and leadership guidance. As managing partner for the past three and a half years, he was responsible for planning, organizing, and implementing the firm’s economic development functions from conception to completion. Prior to that, Jones spent two years as the bureau chief/director of planning and development for the Cook County, Illinois government where he was the architect of the new Cook County Bureau of Economic Development.

From 1999 to 2008, Jones was economic development officer for the Louisville Economic Development Authority, the development agency for the Louisville, Kentucky metropolitan government. There he coordinated projects and marketing strategies by working with city staff and community leaders to determine needs, analyze trends, develop solutions, and implement strategies. Prior to his time in Louisville, Jones worked for the City of Shelbyville, Kentucky, where his primary function was as community and economic development coordinator. In this capacity, he implemented housing action plans and administered existing programs, as well as helped to plan, develop, and promote housing, redevelopment, infrastructure improvements, and other programs.

Jones holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science from the University of Louisville, where he also completed coursework in the university’s graduate business program.

"The City of Dubuque is perfectly positioned to continue to do great things," said Jones. "It has strong leadership, fantastic partnerships and an unbelievably supportive community base. We enthusiastically look forward to being a part of this city's viable future."

As Dubuque's economic development director, Jones will develop, manage, coordinate, and supervise programs to meet the social, economic, and physical development needs of the Dubuque community. The position involves significant coordination, cooperation, and interaction with community groups, private not-for-profit economic development organizations, other city departments, businesses, and citizens. Specific responsibilities include economic development, downtown redevelopment, riverfront development, and supervising the city transit manager and parking division manager.

Van Milligen also said, "I want to offer my thanks to Acting Economic Development Director Phil Wagner, Economic Development Coordinator Megan Starr, and Secretary Deb Searles. When a four-member department goes down to two employees, with secretarial support from another department, it makes things very challenging. In this case, all the projects continued to move forward and the economic success of Dubuque was not compromised. Phil's leadership was an important part of that success."

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Maurice Jones