



DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION TRANSLATES TO SMALLER GOVERNMENT AND STREAMLINED SERVICES

West Chester Township Trustees voted Tuesday to merge the Township's Planning and Zoning Department with its Economic Development Department creating a new Community Development Department.

The move allows West Chester to provide an even more streamlined approach to delivery of services to new and existing businesses in the community, and enhances the Township's ability to attract quality corporate investment.

"West Chester remains focused on attracting strong corporate investment in our community," said Township Administrator Judi Boyko. "This change will make us an even better place to do business by efficiently managing requests from prospective investors and providing a clear path for development resources."

The Community Development Department will be under the leadership of Planning and Zoning Director Brian Elliff. "Mr. Elliff is an excellent representative of West Chester in all that he does and will effectively work within the development community to promote our economic sustainability," Mrs. Boyko said. He has served as West Chester Township Planning and Zoning director for six years and has degrees in law, finance and urban planning. His leadership skills will allow for a smooth transition of the departments and efficient operation of the Township's development functions, Mrs. Boyko said.

"Placing economic development under the umbrella of the planning and zoning department streamlines the process for existing businesses and new corporate investors and reduces government costs," said Community Development Director Brian Elliff. "Potential corporate partners will be able to search out appropriate sites, address potential zoning issues, file for permits and investigate incentive opportunities within the same Township department."

The West Chester Development Council, a business representative advisory group, will continue to play a critical role as they advise and collaborate with the Township Administrator on issues relating to continued development of commerce, West Chester's economy and cultivating interest from potential investors.

"We will continue to work closely with the Administrator to support the Township's future success in the economic development arena," said Larry Brueshaber, president of the Development Council. "West Chester is an excellent place to do business and this new approach will make it even more efficient. The Council will continue to work with the Township to aggressively attract and retain business."

The Township's business retention and expansion manager and business information and technology manager will be relocated to the West Chester Services Center. They will continue to focus on new development and providing support to existing Township businesses. They will report to Community Development Director Brian Elliff. A business attraction manager position will also be created.

“Business attraction is still a priority,” Mr. Elliff said. “With nearly 2,200 acres for business development, we want to sustain West Chester’s economy with highest and best use consistent to community visions.”