



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Contact:

Cindie Perry
Intergovernmental & Communications Officer
(951) 826-5975

Riverside Selects Chief Innovation Officer

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Riverside City Manager Scott Barber today announced the appointment of Lea Deesing as the City’s Chief Innovation Officer. Ms. Deesing has worked in information technology for 24 years, most recently as Associate Vice Chancellor of Information Services for the Riverside Community College District. As Chief Innovation Officer, Ms. Deesing will be directly responsible for the City’s strategic use of technology, manage the Innovation and Technology Department, and work closely with City departments to improve processes and enhance citizen services.

Ms. Deesing was chosen following a highly competitive national recruitment. City Manager Scott Barber said “I am very excited to welcome Lea to the City’s team. Lea has a demonstrated record of success and is a nationally recognized leader in information technology. I am particularly excited about her desire to create an environment whereby ideas and creativity are used to solve technical problems and create innovative solutions.”

Ms. Deesing holds a Master’s in Public Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills and a Bachelor’s of Science in Information Systems from the University of Redlands. Her professional experience includes 16 years in local government as Director of Information Technology, Information Systems Division Manager, Enterprise Systems Administrator and Network Administrator for the cities of San Bernardino, Fontana and Moreno Valley. Prior to working in local government she spent eight years at Esri in Redlands, a world leader in geographic information systems. Lea belongs to a number of professional organizations and received national recognition for the article she wrote in 2012 regarding social media in government.

Ms. Deesing fills the position previously held by Steve Reneker, who retired in late 2012. Ms. Deesing will begin her new position in Riverside on April 8.

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