



## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:**

Rachel Kelly

[rkelly@ci.burlington.nc.us](mailto:rkelly@ci.burlington.nc.us)

(o) 336.222.5076 (c) 336.516.1532

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### CITY SELECTS FIRST DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BURLINGTON, NC— The City of Burlington announces the appointment of Peter F. Bishop to the position of Director of Economic Development. Bishop was selected from a competitive, nation-wide base of applicants as the result of a rigorous assessment and screening process. Bishop will begin his work as the City of Burlington's first Economic Development Director on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

“Peter is an extremely well qualified candidate,” says Crystal Morphis of Creative Economic Development, the firm that managed the selection process for the City. “His enthusiasm and energy make him a great fit for the Burlington community and the best person to start-up the City's new Economic Development Department.”

Bishop comes to the City of Burlington from Currituck County, NC where he has served as the Director of Economic Development for the past 9 years. Some of his notable accomplishments while in that role include: the development an 85-acre shovel-ready State-certified industrial park, managing the development of a 3,300-acre mixed-use Mega Site, and transforming the County's branding and marketing efforts. In the last year alone, he landed over \$350 million in new investment, over 300 full-time jobs, and secured \$10 million in grant funding to support infrastructure growth for Currituck County. He was recently honored with a “Top 40 Under 40” designation from [Inside Business](#).

Prior to his employment with Currituck County, Bishop, a native of Ohio, worked as a commercial real estate broker in Cleveland, Ohio. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy with a minor in Law and Social Thought from the University of Toledo and a Master's in Public Administration with a specialization in urban economic development from Cleveland State University. He is currently furthering his education by pursuing an International Economic Development Council (IEDC) certification.

"I'm excited and humbled to be selected as the City's first director of Economic Development," said Bishop of his appointment. "For me, this is truly a dream job with unmatched opportunity. Burlington has a rich history of innovation in manufacturing, textiles, transportation and biomedical services. I look forward to working hard to serve the City Council, citizens and businesses in continuing Burlington's growth and redevelopment efforts. The City

has an excellent portfolio of assets that are primed to compete in an ever-global contest for new job creation and investment - its workforce, transportation network, sites, historic Downtown and small-town charm will add value to any company considering North Carolina. I can't wait to get started working with the excellent City leadership, staff, County and State partners to leverage these assets for the benefit of our residents and businesses."

"The arrival of Peter Bishop and the creation of the City's newest department signals a renewed commitment and focus on job creation and business recruitment and retention," said City Manager Hardin Watkins. "His past performance in Currituck has been exceptional and he's been described by colleagues as one of the top economic developers in Eastern North Carolina. Peter is dedicated, focused, hardworking, and trustworthy. We are looking forward to him joining Burlington's team and leading us to some outstanding accomplishments."

The Economic Development Department will consist of a director and a project manager and will work to bring new businesses to Burlington that will grow the tax base and create new jobs. The department will also work diligently to help our existing industries expand and ensure a business climate that is ripe for businesses to stay and grow in Burlington. The Department will collaborate with the Burlington Downtown Corporation, Burlington-Alamance Airport Authority, and the Alamance Chamber on existing economic development efforts to create synergy. The Department is located in the Burlington Municipal Building at 425 South Lexington Avenue in downtown Burlington.

Peter Bishop will be available for phone interviews on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Rachel Kelly in the Public Information Office at (336) 222-5076 to schedule an interview.

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Attachment: Photo of Peter Bishop

Our Mission:

"The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees."

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