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## PRESS RELEASE

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July 21, 2014

### MPC hosts public reception for director finalists

The Metropolitan Planning Commission will host a reception Tuesday (July 22) at the Downtown Hilton Hotel, 104 Market St., so the public can meet and greet the top four candidates for the position of Executive Director. The reception starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m.

The original pool of 47 applicants was first narrowed to 19 and eventually to the 10 most qualified candidates by a selection committee comprised of MPC Board members. Two of the top 10 accepted positions elsewhere and the field further narrowed to five after the committee conducted preliminary interviews. One of the top five accepted a position prior to being scheduled for final interviews.

The Executive Director position has been vacant since January 15 of this year after the long-term incumbent Charles Kirkland retired. "Mr. Kirkland was a highly respected leader of our agency for over 26 years," said outgoing Chairman Winzer Andrews. "We as committee members were determined to find a candidate that would take this place of leadership that has been highly regarded in our community."

The finalists are; Robert Hunter, FAICP of Plant City, Fla.; Robert J Massarelli, AICP of Titusville, Fla.; Christian Schock, AICP of Wilmington, Ohio; and Mark W. Sweeney, AICP of Austin, Texas.

The MPC board will interview each candidate on Wednesday during a public meeting at Government Chambers, 505 Travis St., beginning at 8 a.m. The board expects to rank the candidates that afternoon and then begin immediate negotiations with the top candidate.

"The decision of who will fill this position is one of the most important decisions that we as MPC board members will ever make," said current MPC Chairwoman Lea Desmarteau. "Before we make the final decision, would like to give the public the opportunity to meet the candidates."

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