

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NOTE: AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, MY OFFICIAL TITLE AND POSITION HAS NO RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CONSIDERED APPOINTMENT FOR THE DEKALB COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY ME ARE MINE AND MINE ALONE AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF MY EMPLOYER. MY VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AND THIS APPOINTMENT ARE ON MY PERSONAL TIME AND IN NO WAY REPRESENT MY EMPLOYER.

United States Government Agency

June 2011 – PRESENT

Atlanta, GA

Community Affairs Specialist

For North and Central Florida markets: educate stakeholders on community reinvestment opportunities; facilitate partnerships between financial institutions and community-based organizations to promote community and economic development in communities of low wealth; responsible for consulting with examiners and bankers on complex issues related to fair lending laws and the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).

DeKalb County Government

July 2008 – June 2011

Decatur, GA

Administrative Projects Manager, Office of the CEO (January 2009 – June 2011)

Managed and led several internal and external committees and commissions, including the Strategic Planning Committee and Revenue Enhancement Commission for community economic development. Spearheaded several policy initiatives, including DeKalb County's Workforce Housing Policy Initiative and Comprehensive Code Enforcement Initiative. Received Green Communities Certification for the county through year-long data collection. Led process improvement efforts for operations branch of the local government, including development departments, administrative departments and infrastructure departments. Supervised operations staff responsible for executive business agenda items for county business and legislative monitoring of Board of Commissioners' actions. Conducted policy research on behalf of county CEO and COO.

Policy Analyst, Board of Commissioners (July 2008 – January 2009)

Served as policy analyst, including on items related to land use and comprehensive planning, community and economic development and land development on behalf of seven-board member Board of Commissioners. Managed public input and elected official input process for several policies, including infill development in existing neighborhoods and stream protection.

Georgia Institute of Technology

August 2006 – December 2011

Atlanta, GA

Lecturer, School of Building Construction

Created and implemented graduate level courses in residential development covering topics related to community economic development policies and finance. Taught courses during several semesters.

Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership (ANDP)

February 2008 – July 2008

Atlanta, GA

Consultant (open-ended contract)

Lobbied and advocated successfully for legislation during the Georgia General Assembly session in 2008 for consumer protection in the foreclosure process. Coordinated grassroots affordable housing initiatives in several jurisdictions in the metro Atlanta area. Mediated and facilitated community meetings on the Atlanta BeltLine redevelopment initiative.

Urban Land Institute (ULI)

July 2007 – February 2008

Washington, DC and Atlanta, GA

Project Director, Terwilliger Center for Workforce Housing

Created and implemented strategic action plan for newly created nonprofit to implement local policies and programs in support of mixed-income workforce housing project development. Managed budget, steering committee,

APRIL A. ATKINS, AICP

subcommittees and supportive staff. Advocated for policy reform in housing development to provide housing for consumers that make too much to qualify for public assistance but not enough to afford market rate housing.

Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association (HBA)

May 2003 – July 2007

Tucker, GA

Senior Government Affairs Representative (December 2005 – July 2007)

Served as information conduit, lobbyist and advocate for the home building industry in land use, planning and development policies and regulations in metro Atlanta and Georgia in regulatory and legislative affairs. Wrote policy and issue statements on behalf of residential development industry. Published articles in industry-related magazines. Appointed by elected officials to several committees representing the residential development industry regarding land use, development and regulatory fees. Received state and national awards for effective mediation between the residential development industry, community and local government stakeholders.

Government Affairs Representative (May 2003 – December 2005)

Educated and worked with community groups, government staff and elected officials on current land development. Researched industry topics using internal and external resources. Prepared press releases addressing potential policy changes that impacted the residential development industry. Wrote columns in weekly membership newsletter.

Atlanta Metropolitan College

June 2006 – August 2006

Atlanta, GA

Instructor

Taught course in social sciences, covering the disciplines of history, sociology and religion.

EDUCATION, CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Member, American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) #0203580

Certified in Community Economic Development, Neighborworks America

Masters of City and Regional Planning

Georgia Institute of Technology | Atlanta, GA

Specializations: Land Development, Real Estate and Community Development

- Graduate Research Assistant | City of Marietta | Marietta, GA | August 2001 – May 2003
 - Assisted with researching, articulating and assembling various land use and zoning projects for elected officials. Developed population, household and housing statistical projections and text for the city's state-mandated comprehensive plan.

Bachelor of Arts, History

University of Florida | Gainesville, FL

Minor: Sociology

AFFILIATIONS AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

American Planning Association and Georgia Planning Association, member

Center for Community Progress, volunteer (2009 – 2014)

Leadership DeKalb, graduate, Class of 2012

LEAD Atlanta, graduate, Class of 2011; Co-Chair, LEAD Atlanta Class of 2014 Opening Retreat; Contributor, LEAD Atlanta Alumni Newsletter; Co-Chair, LEAD Atlanta Class of 2015; Co-Chair, LEAD Atlanta Class of 2016 Community Issues Day II

DeKalb Initiative for Children and Families, board member (2010 – 2011)

Livable Community Coalition, member, Policy Committee (2006 – 2011)

Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, member, Atlanta Mixed Income Communities Initiative and DeKalb Mixed Income Communities Initiative (2006 – 2011)

Atlanta Public Schools Adopt-a-Student Mentoring Program, coordinator and social events chair (2003 – 2007)