



DDA Agenda Item

Meeting Date: July 27, 2026

SUBJECT : Welcome and Introduction of New City Employees

The City of Stone Mountain and the Downtown Development Authority are pleased to welcome **Laurie “Elle” Walker, Tourism Manager**, and **Thatcher Hart, Community Development Director**, to the City team.

Both Laurie and Thatcher will play important roles in supporting the work of the Downtown Development Authority and advancing the City’s downtown revitalization, tourism, Main Street, economic development, and community development initiatives.

Laurie Walker, Tourism Manager, will serve as a key day-to-day staff resource for the Downtown Development Authority. In this role, Laurie will work closely with DDA members and City staff to support and implement downtown programs, tourism initiatives, Main Street activities, special events, and other projects that promote the vitality and economic success of downtown Stone Mountain. Laurie will assist with coordinating DDA initiatives, supporting programming and events, helping develop tourism and downtown promotional materials, and advancing projects that engage residents, visitors, businesses, and other downtown stakeholders.

Thatcher Hart, Community Development Director, will provide broader leadership, oversight, and coordination for the City's community development, economic development, planning, and downtown revitalization functions. As Community Development Director, Thatcher will work closely with the Tourism Manager to implement downtown programs and projects, provide oversight and coordination of DDA activities, and ensure that the DDA’s work is aligned with the City's broader economic development, redevelopment, planning, and Main Street goals.

Thatcher will also serve as a resource to the DDA on matters related to economic development, redevelopment opportunities, business growth, property development, investment, and coordination with City departments and external stakeholders.

Together, Laurie and Thatcher will provide the Downtown Development Authority with dedicated staff support and leadership while maintaining a collaborative relationship with the DDA Board, City staff, businesses, property owners, residents, and community partners.

The City of Stone Mountain is excited to welcome Laurie Walker and Thatcher Hart to the City team and looks forward to their partnership with the Downtown Development Authority as the City continues to advance downtown revitalization, tourism, economic development, and Main Street initiatives.