



FOR RELEASE:
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CITY OF NORCO APPOINTS NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR

Former Accounting Manager Added as Key Member of Executive Management Team

Norco, CA—After serving as Acting Finance Director for the past several months, the City has appointed Lisette Free as Finance Director for the City of Norco. City Manager Andy Okoro announced the promotion last week, and on February 24, Ms. Free, the City's former Accounting Manager, assumed oversight of the Fiscal and Support Services Department, which employs approximately a dozen staff members.

"Over the last three months, Lisette has performed exceedingly well in the role of Acting Director and I remain confident that her technical skills and leadership style will continue to serve staff and residents very well," said City Manager Okoro of the appointment. The City's Fiscal and Support Services Department is responsible for a wide range of essential City functions, including accounting and financial reporting, utility billing, budgeting, accounts payable and receivable, payroll, debt administration, cash and investments management, cashing, and business licensing. The Finance Director is a key member of the City's executive management team.

Ms. Free joined the City in 2017 as Accounting Manager after more than 20 years of municipal government finance experience gained through work in public accounting and at the County of Orange. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Azusa Pacific University and holds professional certificates as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). Ms. Free is also an active member of the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers Association and Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Ms. Free resides in Jurupa Valley with husband Nick and their 14- and 11-year-old sons. When she is not working, the finance professional enjoys volunteering for her boys' Boy Scouts troop, teaching Sunday school to toddlers, and spending quality time with her family. "I've truly enjoyed my experience at the City of Norco since arriving here in 2017, and am honored and excited to take on the challenges that lie ahead," says Ms. Free, who values the support of her outstanding staff. The new Director states one of her priorities is to provide excellent customer service.

With this appointment, staff has already begun recruitment for the position of Accounting Manager to ensure that the department is fully staffed.

For more information, contact the City of Norco at (951) 270-5623 or info@ci.norco.ca.us.

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