

Statement from Anna Dituri, co-signed by Debbie Hershey

I am deeply disappointed and disheartened by the sudden termination of Planning Director Shawn Winter.

Over the past five and a half years serving alongside Shawn as a Planning Commissioner, I have come to know him as a dedicated public servant, a thoughtful and intentional leader, and a genuinely kind person. From the day he stepped into the role of Planning Director, he worked diligently with the Planning Commission to advance significant initiatives, including the Master Plan, the Mobility Action Plan, a package of housing amendments designed to expand affordable housing opportunities, and what we had hoped would be a rewrite of our zoning ordinance.

This year, the Planning Commission set a meaningful goal to completely rewrite the zoning ordinance so it would become a more accessible, understandable, and effective tool for the public—one that residents could navigate without relying heavily on staff or outside specialists.

With the hiring process for a new Planning Director likely taking months, followed by the substantial time necessary for onboarding, the loss of continuity and institutional knowledge will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the Commission's work.

Experienced planners are not easy to find. They bring a unique combination of long-term vision, technical expertise, and the ability to balance competing community interests. Shawn consistently embodied those qualities, and his dismissal leaves big shoes to fill. I hope we receive some explanation justifying this loss to the city's capacity to support intentional and thoughtful development.