



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
County Manager



**Date:** May 20, 2013

**Board Meeting Date:** June 4, 2013

**Special Notice / Hearing:** None

**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** John L. Maltbie, County Manager

**Subject:** Appointment of William Lowell as Director of the Department of Housing

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the appointment of William Lowell as Director of the Department of Housing effective July 1, 2013.

**BACKGROUND:**

William Lowell has been Deputy Director of the San Mateo County Department of Housing for seven years and has concurrently served as the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of San Mateo ("Housing Authority") for much of that time. As Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Mr. Lowell oversees the federally funded rental housing subsidy programs that help low-income families, approximately half of whom are seniors or disabled.

When Mr. Lowell joined the Housing Authority, the agency faced significant challenges. Funding was declining and there were major issues at the three affordable housing properties located within the County. Under Mr. Lowell's leadership, the Housing Authority expanded and redesigned its Moving to Work program to be more efficient and cost-effective and providing new rental subsidy opportunities for special populations including the homeless, formerly incarcerated individuals and victims of domestic violence. During Mr. Lowell's tenure, the three affordable housing properties owned by the Housing Authority have been transformed. Major renovations have been done at El Camino Village. Midway Village has also had major renovations and was converted from public housing to a Section 8 voucher-based program, which effectively doubled the rental income, resolving long-standing financial issues, and gave residents mobility through providing voucher-based subsidies. He has also overseen the redevelopment of Half Moon Village and the entire senior campus in Half Moon Bay, which will result in more than tripling affordable senior housing units, while also providing on-site social and health resource space for seniors.

Mr. Lowell has worked for the County for twenty years. Prior to joining the Department of Housing, he served as Deputy Director of the San Mateo County Superior Court and the Deputy Director of Operations and Chief Fiscal Officer for the San Mateo Medical Center. He holds an MBA in Finance and International Business from New York University and a BA in Asian Studies from Hofstra University.

**DISCUSSION:**

On June 20, 2013, Duane Bay, the current Director of San Mateo County Department of Housing will step down. I am recommending that the Board appoint William Lowell as the next Director of the Department of Housing. Mr. Lowell's successful leadership of the Housing Authority and past experience with the County make him exceptionally qualified to be the next Director of the Department of Housing.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Appointment of William Lowell as Director of the Department of Housing has no impact on the County General Fund.