



**THE HONORABLE SHENG THAO • MAYOR OF OAKLAND**

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May 16, 2023

Dear Esteemed Colleagues on the City Council,

I urge you to approve the attached appointment of Jestin Johnson as City Administrator for the period beginning June 5, 2023 and ending January 30, 2027.

Mr. Johnson's over 15 years of local government experience, which includes experience in large, complex, full-service organizations such as the City of Atlanta and the City of Tucson, will allow for a seamless transition and organizational fit. Not only does he have the breadth and leadership depth of experience in all facets of local government, but he also places a premium on building interpersonal equity throughout the organization, community, and the Council.

Currently, Mr. Johnson serves as IBM's Corporate Social Responsibility Manager in Sandy Springs, GA. In this role, he is responsible for establishing partnerships with local governments, NPO, and workforce development boards that desire to implement and enhance skilling/reskilling initiatives in underserved and underrepresented communities.

Before joining IBM, he served as the Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the City of Atlanta. In this role, he had the pleasure of leading the infrastructure and public safety departmental portfolio and significant capital projects related to "The Gulch," which was one of the most substantial economic development projects in Atlanta's history. Also, he led or supported several justice reform initiatives (Use of Force Task Force and Diversion Center Development), which required partnership with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). In addition, he served as the Executive Sponsor for Atlanta's COVID-19 response plan, and was tasked with leading a collaborative effort to create the City of Atlanta's Westside Park Equitable Development Framework.

Before joining the City of Atlanta, he gained experience in key roles that will allow for sustained success, including serving as the Assistant County Manager for the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, GA, as City Manager of Bisbee, Arizona, and as Management Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Tucson, AZ. In these roles, he was instrumental in helping to collaboratively establish creative ways of continuing service delivery by instituting partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions, utilizing grant funding for public works projects, and elevating

the capacity of staff and community groups with authentic community engagement.

In closing, not only does Mr. Johnson pride himself on his collaborative approach to building and working with teams, but his approach to equity in service delivery while maintaining a human centered management philosophy will be an asset to the City of Oakland. I am confident in Mr. Johnson's ability to ethically and effectively carry out the duties of City Administrator for the good of Oakland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheng Thao". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the word "Thao".

Mayor Sheng Thao