



## City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor

Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### BEACON MAYOR KYRIACOU TO APPOINT CHRIS WHITE AS CITY ADMINISTRATOR

BEACON, NY – Mayor Lee Kyriacou announced that he will appoint Chris White as the next City Administrator, subject to approval of the full City Council on January 4th. White is currently Deputy Director of Planning for Ulster County, and served on the Beacon City Council in the 1990s. Outgoing City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero will be joining the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health in a managerial role at the end of January.

Chris White has been the Deputy Director of Planning for Ulster County for the past nine years, managing multi-million dollar projects – including repurposing of an unused school into a satellite community college campus, as well as planning and constructing rail trails throughout Ulster County. Previously, Chris spent ten years managing Congressman Maurice Hinchey’s District Office. White served as Beacon’s Ward Three Councilmember from 1996-1997. As Councilmember, Chris spearheaded the closure of the city’s sewage sludge incinerator and rezoning of the waterfront for tourism purposes – making possible DIA Beacon, the Beacon Institute for Rivers & Estuaries, and Scenic Hudson redevelopment. White holds a Master in Public Administration from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy at SUNY Albany, and a Bachelor of Arts in Politics from New York University.

Mayor Kyriacou said, “It is my pleasure to welcome back to Beacon an exceptionally qualified former resident and councilmember. Chris helped the city redefine its vision for the future in the 1990s, which was instrumental in Beacon’s revitalization. In screening more than 30 applicants and interviewing a number of qualified candidates, Chris stood out because of his planning and project expertise, his regional knowledge, and his genuine passion for Beacon.”

City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said, “With our form of government, the City Administrator oversees the day-to-day operations of the city. It’s critical that the Mayor choose a professional who is not only well qualified, but will also work well with residents, city staff and elected officials. Chris is a hard-working, highly communicative manager who can liaise with all of Beacon’s stakeholders.”

At Large Councilmember Amber Grant said, “Chris’s background and experience with project management and planning will be an asset to Beacon. I wish him much success in this role.”

At Large Councilmember George Mansfield said, “Chris’ intimate knowledge of Beacon along with his extensive professional experience made him an idea candidate for our next City Administrator. I look forward to working with him.”

Chris White said, "I am grateful and honored to receive this appointment as Beacon’s next City Administrator. I look forward to working with the Mayor, Council, city staff and the community, to build upon their efforts that have made Beacon such a wonderful place to live, work and visit.”

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**About the City of Beacon:**

Beacon, New York is located on the eastern shore of the Hudson River 60 miles north of New York City, with a population of 15,000. Originally a Native American settlement, the area was purchased from the Wappinger Tribe in 1683 and settled by Dutch and other Europeans, leading to the riverfront community of Fishkill Landing on the Hudson, and the mill community of Matteawan on Fishkill Creek. The two communities were incorporated together as the City of Beacon in 1913, named for the Revolutionary War signal fires on Mount Beacon. Beacon thrived as a 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century factory city, but as factories closed after WWII and the local economy declined, the city went through a period of hard times. Today, Beacon has successfully reinvented itself as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century river community centered around tourism, the arts and access to the scenic Hudson River heritage area. A diverse and thriving small city, it is now home to DIA:Beacon (one of the largest exhibition spaces for modern and contemporary art), a network of Hudson River parks connecting to Fishkill Creek and Mount Beacon trails, and a vibrant historic Main Street of art galleries, shops, cultural venues and restaurants.

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