



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 19, 2021

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Katie Casey, Communications Manager
(805) 816-4330 | katie.casey@oxnard.org

Oxnard's Chief Financial Officer Headed to the City of Long Beach

OXNARD, Calif. – City Manager Alexander Nguyen announced today that Oxnard's Chief Financial Officer Kevin Riper is headed to the City of Long Beach, Calif., to become their Director of Financial Management.

During his time in Oxnard, Riper helped revamp the Finance Department after several challenging years when the City had to address 158 audit findings that had accumulated since 2014 and was also facing a multi-million dollar operating deficit in the General Fund.

Today over 96% of the audit findings concerning the City's internal controls, financial management and accounting policies and procedures have been cleared, and the Finance team eliminated all 64 material weaknesses, which were the most serious of the audit findings. The Oxnard City Council also recently adopted the City's first positive budget in nearly a decade thanks to the voters' approval of Measure E and the support of budget staff.

"Kevin was instrumental in improving Oxnard's Finance Department," said City Manager Alexander Nguyen. "His expertise and leadership helped us to clear the audit findings, secure substantial savings through bond refinancing, and increase our bond rating outlook from S&P. He will be sorely missed, but his achievements in Oxnard provide us with a strong Finance Department team that is prepared to maintain the progress we have achieved."

In addition to tackling the budget and audit findings, Riper hired two new Assistant CFOs and secured Council approval for the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system purchase. The ERP will overhaul outdated software systems from the 1980s, providing employees across all departments with modern financial software to increase efficiencies and minimize errors.

Riper's success in Oxnard put him on the City of Long Beach's radar, a top 50 city in the U.S. with a financial management department of 240 full-time employees. His last day in Oxnard will be August 27, and first day in Long Beach is September 7.

"Thank you for the opportunity to serve a fast-moving city with a splendid management team, a strong staff, an amazingly supportive City Council, and intriguing financial challenges I haven't encountered before," said Riper.

The City will begin the process of recruiting for a new chief financial officer.

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