



www.bransonmo.gov

City of Branson

110 West Maddux
Branson, MO 65616
417-337-8526

Public Information Department

jadams@bransonmo.gov

News Release

May 7, 2009

Contact: Jerry Adams, public information director, 337-8526

City hires economic development director

The planning and community development director of Centralia, Illinois has been hired as the new economic development director for the city of Branson. He is Garrett Anderson who begins his duties in Branson June 1.



Garrett Anderson

Anderson served as community development and planning in Centralia since 2005 where he rewrote the city's comprehensive plan, wrote and administered federal grants for housing rehabilitation, coordinated renovations of the downtown area and had experience in TIF and Enterprise Zone tax incentives to attract businesses.

Anderson was also the city's liaison on almost all city of Centralia boards and commissions responsible for policy direction, budgeting and planning for the boards.

"We had many excellent applicants from all over the country," said Branson City Administrator Dean Kruithof. "Garrett was the consensus choice of those who met the candidates."

Kruithof said Garrett's background in TIFs, workforce housing, community development and familiarity with Branson uniquely qualified him for the economic development position.

"I believe Garrett will represent the city well, not only in our community but also the region," said Kruithof. "Protecting and promoting existing businesses, diversifying our economy, increasing year-around employment, and developing workforce housing are very important issues in Branson right now. We believe he has the skills and abilities to help us address these issues in an effective manner."

Anderson said during the interview process, he was able to meet many of the local business and community leaders that he will be working with.

"I could tell that everyone I spoke with has a great love for the community," he said.

Anderson said he has already discussed a few of his initial projects that include diversifying the workforce and affordable housing.

“I have also seen some success with grant writing, both public and private, and I will continue this for the city of Branson,” he said.

Before going to Centralia, Anderson was a management intern in the Salem, IL city manager’s office. He also worked in the field of digital mapping at Tele Atlas North America in Menlo Park, CA.

A native of Normal, IL, Anderson has a Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning from Brigham Young University and a Masters of Business Administration from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO.

Married with two children, Anderson said he has been to Branson many times with his family, and that he is excited to be working and raising their own family in such a vibrant community.