



Collier County Government

Public Services Division
3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Building H, Suite 217
Naples, FL 34112

(239) 252-5326
www.colliergov.net

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Director Named for Domestic Animal Services

Public Services Division Administrator Marla Ramsey and County Manager Jim Mudd announced today that a new director has been chosen for Collier County Domestic Animal Services.

A selection committee interviewed several candidates and after review determined Domestic Animal Services' Interim Director Amanda Townsend is the best choice for leading the department forward.

The previous director left the position for another county position in the Housing and Human Services Department. The Domestic Animal Services director position has been vacant since December 2007, when Townsend stepped in as the interim director.

Townsend previously served as the Public Services Division's Operations Analyst from 2006 to 2007 and served in the same capacity for the Parks and Recreation Department from 2004 to 2006. As an operations analyst, Townsend benchmarked the performance of Public Services Division departments, represented the division on issues of comprehensive planning and growth management and served on the Strategic Planning Excellence Program for Ultimate Performance (STEP-UP) Committee, which reports to the County Manager.

"In her short stay at Domestic Animal Services, Amanda has improved off-site adoptions of pets and has established stronger working relationships with the DAS Advisory Board as well as local animal activists," said Public Services Division Administrator Marla Ramsey.

Townsend also boasts the accomplishment of securing more than \$14 million dollars of grant funds for county projects since 2004. Grant-funded projects Townsend worked on include irrigation systems, North Collier Regional Park, East Naples Community Park's Senior Annex, the Barefoot Beach Preserve, Mar-Good Harbor Park and finally the Gordon River Greenway Park.

As Interim Director of Domestic Animal Services, Townsend worked with the Board of County Commissioners to strengthen the Animal Control Ordinance regulations for dangerous dogs and also is one

of the first agencies to mandate the spaying and neutering of impounded/lost pets that are returned to their owners.

Townsend has been in Collier County most of her life and attended Lely High School. Townsend holds a Master of Arts in American Studies from the University of Alabama and a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies from New College of Florida.

Townsend lives in East Naples with her husband Chris and two children, Jane and Suzanne.

For more information contact: Camden Smith, Public Services Division Public Information Coordinator at 239-252-5326.

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