



PROSPER
PORTLAND
Building an Equitable Economy

DATE: September 18, 2024
TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Hope Whitney, General Counsel
SUBJECT: Report Number 24-45
Appointing Shea Flaherty Betin to Serve as Prosper Portland Interim Executive Director

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Adopt Resolution No. 7577

If approved, this action by the Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners (Board) would appoint Shea Flaherty Betin to serve as the interim Executive Director of Prosper Portland. It also states the Board's recommendation that the Interim Executive Director appoint Lisa Abuaf as Interim Deputy Director.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND OUTCOMES

This action delivers on the agency's strategic objective to operate an equitable, innovative, and financially sustainable organization.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The current Executive Director, Kimberly Branam, has announced that she will resign from her position as of September 27, 2024. Since the hiring of her replacement is not anticipated to conclude until December or possibly later, the Prosper Portland Board desires to appoint an Interim Executive Director to perform the duties of, and undertake the authority of, the Executive Director in the transition period. This action will appoint Shea Flaherty Betin to serve as Interim Executive Director effective as September 28, 2024. If the appointment is approved, Shea Flaherty Betin will serve a dual role as Director of Economic Development and Interim Executive Director until the effective date of the Prosper Portland Board's appointment of a new, permanent Executive Director, or until such other date that the Prosper Portland Board may choose. He may also elect to backfill his current role on an interim basis, as well. In recognition of the numerous duties and breadth of the Executive Director role, the resolution captures the Board's recommendation that Lisa Abuaf serve a dual role as Director of Development & Investment and Interim Deputy Executive Director until the effective date of the Prosper Portland Board's appointment of a new, permanent Executive Director.

In the meantime, the search for Prosper Portland's Executive Director commenced this month, with an intermediate procurement of an executive search firm. Proposals received will guide the Prosper Portland Board's decision based on approach and alignment, timeline, fees, relevant network, and experience. Input from key internal and external stakeholders will be sought to shape selection priorities and inform the focus of candidate screening and interview questions, based on the Hiring Guidelines adopted by the Prosper Portland Board on August 28, 2024, through Resolution No. 7575. The search process will seek candidates with a strong understanding of and connection to the region, a proven ability to advance racial equity, and expertise in inclusive economic development and urban

redevelopment. Staff are confident this approach will ensure the selected search firm identifies Executive Director candidates who not only excel in local government, economic development, and property development, but who also align with Prosper Portland’s mission and values.

EQUITY IMPACT

This action will ensure Prosper Portland’s work to create equitable outcomes continues while a search for a permanent Executive Director is ongoing.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK

Some stakeholder feedback was sought in connection with this action.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

There are no budget impacts related to this proposed action.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no risks to the Prosper Portland Board appointing an Interim Executive Director, and this action would eliminate the risk of Prosper Portland being without an Executive Director during the search for a permanent replacement.

ATTACHMENTS

None.