

# CITY OF PEABODY

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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

### Mayor Names Rydzewski Business Liaison

Acting on his pledge to make Peabody more business-friendly, Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr. named veteran City Hall staff member Julie Rydzewski the city's first Business Liaison.

A graduate of Merrimack College who has worked in the administrations of three Peabody mayors during her 13 years in public service, Rydzewski has served as the City's Grants Manager since 2007. With over six years' experience working in Community Development, Rydzewski boasts an impressive grasp of the city's permitting process as well as the needs and direction of Peabody's business community.

"While we interviewed a number of very qualified individuals for the position of Business Liaison, Julie really stood out," said Mayor Bettencourt. "Her credentials are obviously very impressive and her knowledge of the Peabody landscape – both the inner workings of municipal government and of the community at large, is what sets her apart."

Indeed, Rydzewski began her career in government as a paid intern in the office of former Mayor Peter Torigian. That internship continued throughout her college years and culminated with a full time position as Senior Treasury Clerk under former Mayor Mike Bonfanti. In addition to her role as Grants Manager under Community Development Director Karen Sawyer, Rydzewski lends her considerable skills to the Board of Health, Licensing Board, and Community Development Authority (CDA).

"I am truly honored to be chosen by Mayor Bettencourt for this exciting new position of Business Liaison," Rydzewski said. "The City of Peabody has so much to offer the business community in terms of a skilled workforce, favorable tax structure, great highway access, and now a dedicated advocate inside City Hall."

Rydzewski plans to hit the ground running as Business Liaison in part based on her extensive network of contacts culled from over a dozen years working in City Hall. In addition to being the eyes and ears of the Community Development Department since 2007, Rydzewski is a prolific volunteer. She lends her talent and enthusiasm to a number of civic boards including the Cultural Council, the Wellness Committee, the Restaurant Week Committee and the Snowshoe Classic 5K Race Committee.

"We cast a wide net to find the right person for this important role," Mayor Bettencourt said. "It turns out the right person was already here. Julie Rydzewski will be a terrific champion for Peabody's business community."

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