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News Release

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Jones, Smolnik take on new roles in New Kent

NEW KENT VIRGINIA, February 6, 2023: County Administrator Rodney Hathaway is pleased to announce the appointments of Korita Jones as Director of Human Resources and Matthew Smolnik as Assistant County Administrator of New County.

Ms. Jones joined staff on October 17, 2022 and is an established Human Resources professional with many years of experience in the core functional areas of Human Resources - Classification and Compensation, Benefits Administration, Human Resources Information Systems, Policy, Employee Relations and Training and Development.

Prior to joining New Kent County, Ms. Jones was the Deputy Director over Human Resources, Information Technology, and Budget for the City of Richmond, Virginia's Department of Fire and Emergency Services, a Senior Human Resources Consultant for Gallagher Benefit Services, and owned and operated a consulting company that assisted public sector organizations in their human resources needs.

In 2017, Korita served as the Director of Human Resources for the City of Richmond, Virginia, a position that she was the youngest person ever to hold. Under her leadership, the City experienced several firsts to include the launch of the paid maternity and parental leave program and launch of the high deductible health care program with a City funded health savings account. Prior to the Director position, Ms. Jones was the first head of Human Resources for Richmond City Council where she was instrumental in assisting Councilmembers in creating policies and understanding laws affecting the entire employee population.

Ms. Jones also served Richmond City Council as a Policy Analyst for six years where she researched and drafted legislation related to personnel and general governmental operations and she assisted in the budget review and adoption processes.

Korita and her daughter, Kamdyn, are proud New Kent County residents.

Mr. Smolnik serves as the County's point person for all economic development activity, including business recruitment, business attraction and business retention. Mr. Smolnik has 18 years of experience with local government in Planning & Zoning, Environmental and Economic Development along with two years with the state government where he served as a Virginia State Park Ranger. He received both of his undergraduate degrees from the University of Pittsburgh in 2000 where he was also a varsity letterman for the Pitt track team. In 2004 Mr. Smolnik earned his Master's degree from West Virginia University and had his thesis published in a professional forestry journal.

At the onset of his local government career, Mr. Smolnik managed a large-scale new urbanism development (New Town) in James City County. While at Isle of Wight County, his transition between Planning and Economic Development began where Mr. Smolnik authored a fast-track review process which helped bring two major companies to the County's industrial park, including Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. Since he came to New Kent County in November 2014, he served as the point person in 2018 for the rebirth of live horse racing in Virginia while working with the group to purchase Colonial Downs and assisted with the opening of numerous Rosie's locations across the Commonwealth. Other notable projects while at New Kent include the courtship and construction of a VCU Health System free-standing emergency department and the \$185M AutoZone distribution center located in New Kent City Center.

Mr. Smolnik is an Eagle Scout and remains active in scouting where he was a leader for a local Cub Scout Pack and currently serves as the Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 562. He enjoys bird hunting, hiking, backpacking and golfing and resides in New Kent County with his wife, Cricket and their two children, Collin and Chloe.

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