



## Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 2021-1429  
**Type:** Consent Calendar Item **Status:** Agenda Ready  
**File created:** 12/9/2021 **In control:** Human Resources  
**On agenda:** 12/14/2021 **Final action:**  
**Title:** Interim Appointment - Executive Director, Economic Development Board  
**Sponsors:** County Administrator, Human Resources  
**Indexes:**  
**Attachments:** 1. Summary Report

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/14/2021	1	Board of Supervisors	Approved as recommended	Pass

**To:** Sonoma County Board of Supervisors  
**Department or Agency Name(s):** County Administrator, Human Resources  
**Staff Name and Phone Number:** Sheryl Bratton, 565-3578 Christina Cramer, 565-2988  
**Vote Requirement:** Majority  
**Supervisorial District(s):** Countywide

**Title:**  
Interim Appointment - Executive Director, Economic Development Board

### Recommended Action:

Appoint Ethan Brown as Interim Executive Director, Economic Development Board, effective December 28, 2021.

### Executive Summary:

The Executive Director, Economic Development Board is appointed by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. The incumbent, Sheba Person-Whitley, recently announced her planned resignation effective December 27 and an interim Executive Director is needed. Ethan Brown has been with the Economic Development Board since 2012, serving as the Director of Business Development since 2019.

### Discussion:

The Sonoma County Economic Development Board (EDB) provides services to encourage the startup, retention, and expansion of Sonoma County businesses and jobs by promoting Sonoma County as an attractive place to do business. The EDB fosters job growth by providing local businesses with tools to help them prosper while developing a workforce strategy driven by local employer needs. More recently, the EDB has played a key role supporting local businesses recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon Ms. Person-Whitley's departure, an interim leader is needed to allow the Board of Supervisors time to determine the priorities, objectives and requirements for the next EDB leader, as well as the time it will take to plan and conduct a nationwide recruitment. Ethan Brown has been with the EDB since 2012 and has proven ability to take on increasing responsibilities. Since 2019, Mr. Brown has been in a key management role as the Director of Business Development. Mr. Brown will provide continuity of knowledge and leadership and is

committed to ensuring EDB staff are supported and services are maintained. Mr. Brown was also highly recommended for the interim role by Ms. Person-Whitley.

Mr. Brown will be placed at the "A" step of the salary for the position, which is currently \$149,244 annually. Mr. Brown will begin the interim role on December 28, 2021.

**Strategic Plan:**

N/A

**Prior Board Actions:**

None.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY 21-22 Adopted</b>	<b>FY22-23 Projected</b>	<b>FY 23-24 Projected</b>
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>			
<b>Funding Sources</b>			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
<b>Total Sources</b>			

**Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:**

Ongoing annualized salary and benefit costs associated with this position is already incorporated into the Economic Development Board's budget. This action does not increase any budget appropriations.

<b>Staffing Impacts:</b>			
<b>Position Title (Payroll Classification)</b>	<b>Monthly Salary Range (A-I Step)</b>	<b>Additions (Number)</b>	<b>Deletions (Number)</b>

**Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):**

None.

**Attachments:**

None.

**Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:**

None.