

# DAVID A. KIFF

## EXPERIENCE:

**SEPTEMBER 2018 TO MAY 2019 (est)**

**INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATION OF CA CITIES – ORANGE COUNTY**

Filled a gap between executive directors for this small non-profit that consists of member cities who collectively work on legislative advocacy, municipal training and education, and networking. Served a board of 15 elected local officials. Key focus was helping start up the Orange County Housing Finance Trust (County of Orange plus all of OC cities eligible) to help fund homelessness solutions and new supportive housing units. I am now assisting in hiring my replacement.

**AUGUST 2009 TO AUGUST 2018**

**CITY MANAGER, CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CA**

I started work at the City of Newport Beach in January 1998, and served as City Manager from 2009 to 2018. We weathered the Great Recession via restructuring and always had a balanced budget. The City's budget is about \$300M/year with about 725 full-time staff, including police, fire/EMS, IT, building and planning, lifeguards, public works, library, parks and recreation, senior services, human resources, finance and admin, water and wastewater utility, harbor, and even oil wells.

Before Newport Beach, I was Assistant to the City Manager in **Orange, CA** (1996-1998), an Executive Assistant to the **Orange County** Board of Supervisors (1994-1996), a staff consultant to the **California State Senate** Committee on Local Government (1989-1993), a **California State Senate** Fellow (1988-89), and worked for the CA Governor's Office of Community Relations (1988).

## EDUCATION:

**MAY 1994**

**MASTER OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, FELS SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia PA, Fels Scholarship**

**MAY 1988**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, CSU SACRAMENTO**

*Public management specialty*

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Orange County City Managers Association – President 2017-18, Vice-President 2016-17
- Orange County Commission to End Homelessness (representing OC's city managers – 2015-2018)
- OC Housing Finance Trust establishment working group (Nov 2018 – current)
- OC Point in Time Count Volunteer – 2015, 2017
- League of CA Cities' CMs Task Force on Pension Reform (2017)
- League of CA Cities Committee on HR and Labor Relations (2014-15)
- Administrative Hearing Officer (2018-current)

## **MORE ABOUT ME:**

At the end of August 2018, I officially retired from permanent city manager life, but municipal governments' issues are still interesting and challenging to me.

I think I bring these skills to the table:

- An ability to understand the politics and political needs of elected officials as well as the role of staff, but also an ability to understand what needs to be done to make or keep an organization successful.
- The analytical and research skills to recommend achievable and understandable solutions, even to very challenging issues.
- Specific and direct knowledge (from a city manager's perspective) of financial issues, budget reduction strategies, pension strategies, housing and homelessness solutions, airport issues, water quality, annexations, Coastal Commission issues, beach city issues and more.
- Good writing skills, strong editing skills, and solid presentation skills.
- An ability to stay friendly, optimistic, calm and empathetic in nearly all situations.
- An ability to be candid and direct as to problems and solutions but in a nice way.
- A respect and admiration for (and understanding of) the Council-Manager form of government.
- Honesty, integrity, and transparency.
- An ability to work either as a Team Member or a Team Leader, sometimes within the same team when needed.

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