



**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Freeport, Illinois (pop. 23,433). The City of Freeport is looking for a skilled, enthusiastic, and results-driven Community and Economic Development Director. The Community and Economic Development Director oversees long range planning, economic development, land development, zoning, code enforcement, TIF administration, and property acquisition.

Freeport is a micropolitan center that is strategically located in northwest Illinois just south of US Highway 20, thirty miles west of Rockford, Illinois, fourteen miles south of the Wisconsin State border, sixty-five miles east of Dubuque, Iowa, and seventy miles west of the Chicago metro region. Freeport's ideal location blends scenic northern Illinois recreational amenities with the quality of life amenities provided by a progressive full-service city.

Freeport, the home of the Pretzels, is a dynamic full-service city located in Stephenson County, Illinois. Freeport serves as the County Seat and covers 11.7 square miles. The City of Freeport is governed by a nine-member City Council including the mayor and 8 alderpersons elected to four-year overlapping terms. The mayor and one alderperson are elected at-large, while the remaining 7 alderpersons are elected by wards. The city has an annual operating and capital budget totaling \$66,723,543.

Freeport is currently conducting a \$3,300,000 federal pre-disaster mitigation grant project consisting of floodplain acquisition and relocations and a \$4,000,000 reconstruction of the city's six block entertainment district supported by \$1,900,000 of Opportunity Zone grants. The Community and Economic Development Director will be highly involved in these exciting projects.

The Community and Economic Development Director serves on the city's leadership team and reports directly to the City Manager. The position oversees a \$500,000 annual departmental budget and five team members. The successful candidate must be a dynamic communicator and have great people skills.

Minimum candidate qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in planning, public administration, urban studies, community development or a related field. A Master's degree is preferred.
- One to three years of economic development and/or planning experience is required, but three to five years of economic development and community development experience is preferred.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Experience in economic development, land development, planning, and zoning.



- Experience in code enforcement and residential housing blight reduction is strongly preferred.
- Tax Increment Finance (TIF) administration experience.

The ideal candidate:

- Is a team player capable of advocating for department needs, but also understanding of the need to support the mission of the whole organization.
- Is a skilled project manager able to oversee complex initiatives and ensure project completion.
- Is able to build and maintain strong partnerships and relationships with diverse stakeholders. A proven consensus builder.
- Is committed to customer service and community engagement; Highly responsive to community concerns, needs, and inquiries.
- Is knowledgeable in land use planning, zoning, and code enforcement.
- Is experienced and skilled in economic development with a demonstrated understanding of financing tools and options, including Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

The starting annual salary range for this position is \$70,000 - \$90,000 DOQ/E. The City of Freeport offers an excellent and comprehensive benefits package.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should apply online by October 22, 2021, with resume, cover letter and contact information for five work-related references at www.GovHRJobs.com to the attention of Mark Peterson, Vice President, GovHR USA, 630 Dundee Road, #225, Northbrook, IL 60062. Please direct all inquiries about the position and/or the process to Mark Peterson at 309-825-5091. Interviews with the City of Freeport are anticipated in early December. The City of Freeport is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

[Click Here to Apply!](#)