



City of Omaha  
Jim Suttle, Mayor

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Mayor Suttle Appoints Rick Cunningham City Planning Director**



*Pictured: Rick Cunningham*

**July 6, 2009** – Mayor Jim Suttle today announced his appointment of Rick Cunningham, R.A., F. SAME to lead the City of Omaha’s Planning Department.

Cunningham is a licensed architect, holds a master’s degree in engineering, and has participated in planning efforts at a local, regional and national level. “Rick’s breadth of experience in architecture, engineering and planning is a rare commodity and he will be an instrumental player as we set the course for Omaha’s future,” Mayor Jim Suttle said.

Cunningham, a graduate of Omaha’s Central High School and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, returns to Omaha from Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) based in New York City. The company is one of the world's leading planning, engineering, and construction management organizations. At PB, Cunningham was Senior Vice President and a National Sales Manager. Prior to his tenure at PB, Cunningham worked for HDR Engineering, Inc. for 15 years in both Kansas City and Richmond. At HDR, Cunningham was extensively involved with urban planning for metropolitan Kansas City and St. Louis.

Upon starting his new position, Cunningham will be tasked with:

- Management and oversight of all divisions of the City of Omaha Planning Department,
- Finalizing the Downtown Master Plan,
- Streamlining existing ordinances and laws relating to zoning, permits and inspections to enhance efficiencies in city services, and
- Expanding the City of Omaha’s partnership with Omaha By Design.

Along with his extensive professional resume, Cunningham brings an impressive record of civic involvement. He has served on the Board of Directors of SafeHOME based in Kansas City and as a Board Member of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. He is also a graduate of Leadership Omaha, Leadership Kansas, and Leadership Overland Park.

“There have been many improvements in Omaha over the last 15 years and the City has come a long way,” Cunningham said. “I am excited about the opportunity to build on that success and help move Omaha forward.” Cunningham replaces current Planning Director Steve Jensen, who is leaving the position after 38 years of distinguished service to the City of Omaha. Cunningham’s first day will be July 27, 2009.

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