



CITY OF TUCSON

MEDIA RELEASE

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Date: June 26, 2006
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CITY CREATES OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The City of Tucson has created a new office to ensure that Tucson will grow in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner.

The Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development is a division of the City Manager's Office and will be headed by Leslie Liberti. Liberti has been the Environmental Planning Manager in the City Manager's Office, and was appointed director of the new office effective May 7, 2006.

"The creation of this office underscores the City's commitment to balancing environmental and quality of life issues with future growth of the City. We need to look ahead at how we can grow smarter and create a community that is a great place for our residents to live and that people want to come and visit," said City Manager Mike Hein. The office will assist the City's leadership in identifying how resource protection, sustainability, and quality of life goals can be achieved throughout the community.

The mission of the Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development is to promote an environmental vision and leadership in the City towards strong environmental protection and sustainable practices. To accomplish this, the office will oversee the development of habitat conservation, ecosystem restoration, and green infrastructure plans that identify how resource protection, sustainability, and quality of life goals will be achieved throughout the community. The office will also provide guidance for private developments on environmentally sensitive and sustainable design while offering a streamlined and clear review process, and will work with residents so they can make more environmentally sound choices that enhance the quality and sustainability of their neighborhoods.

"This office has a three-pronged vision toward conservation: plan for and preserve important habitat, wildlife corridors, and other resources before they are lost; restore critical linkages and enhance habitat quality in areas where it was been degraded; and lessen the impact that we have as an urban community on regional and global resources," said Liberti. "Strict habitat preservation is important, but urban conservation must also consider the environmental consequences of water and energy consumption, waste generation, water quality, and availability of green space in the community. All of these issues are critical to ensuring the quality of life, and this needs to be assured for all residents."

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