



Rebecca Coletta, President | Mary Waldron, Executive Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Old Colony Planning Council Hires Three New Staff Members

BROCKTON, MA - On behalf of President, Rebecca Coletta, and Executive Director, Mary Waldron, the Old Colony Planning Council Regional Planning (OCPC) is pleased to announce the hiring of three new staff members, Nicholas Giaquinto, Rhiannon Dugan, and Bill Napolitano.

These new staff members arrive at a time of significant development and growth for OCPC as the organization continues to expand the work being accomplished to assist our 17 communities plus the additional 6 communities that the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Department supports.

“In a recent report, the Massachusetts economy is continuing to grow. We in the OCPC region need to keep pace with that growth and work with our communities, state and federal partners to address the needs. Transportation, economic development, comprehensive planning, sustainability, resiliency, and elder services all play a role in the future of our region. Adding capacity and experience in our new staff members compliments the existing exemplary OCPC staff.” - Mary Waldron

Nicholas (Nick) Giaquinto will be joining as the Senior Economic Development Planner with the Economic Resiliency and Housing Equity Department under Department Director, Don Sullivan. The department plans and develops economic development projects, produces grant funding applications, planning narratives and outlines, data and policy narratives, educational materials, project documentation, and works with a diverse team of planners and designers to deliver high-quality work and manage a diverse portfolio of projects.

Nick’s experience includes conducting comprehensive research and analysis, developing strategic plans to attract investment and build infrastructure, and implementing targeted initiatives to promote regional economic development. Giaquinto is passionate about fostering collaborative relationships to create inclusive and sustainable development strategies. He is skillful at facilitating public meetings and fostering community engagement to ensure that planning decisions reflect the needs and aspirations of the diverse populations being served.



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“Nick will be a great asset to the Economic Development Department as he utilizes his local government experience to oversee the work being done with communities and stakeholders to build cross-sector partnerships and manage municipal economic development projects and policy issues that help advance on-the-ground initiatives.” – Don Sullivan

Prior to OCPC, Nick worked for MassDevelopment as a member of the TDI operations staff for the Transformative Development Initiative (TDI). As District Partnership Officer, Nick coordinated with lead partners and other MassDevelopment staff to sustain partnership structures within TDI districts and manage local municipal policy issues, including the overall planning and on-the-groundwork in cities across the Commonwealth. Nick also gained experience as Chief of Staff to Brockton Mayor Bill Carpenter and as a legislative committee staffer for the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Giaquinto holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a Bachelor of Science in American Politics and Government from Suffolk University.

Rhiannon Dugan will be joining as a Senior Comprehensive Planner for the Comprehensive Planning and Sustainability Department, under Department Director, Laurie Muncy. The Comprehensive Planning and Sustainability Department is responsible for delivering plans and projects at the regional and city/town levels, particularly, regional and municipal long-range planning, including visioning and master plans; municipal vulnerability and hazard mitigation planning; municipal energy use reduction and climate adaptation; parks and open space planning; economic development and recovery; housing; and zoning. Rhiannon recently completed her Master's in Urban and Environmental Planning at University of Massachusetts Boston in the Spring of 2023. Additionally, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Geography with a minor in Urban Studies from Worcester State University. Dugan recently worked for SRPEDD as the Senior Environmental Planner and spent eight years teaching environmental education to children of all ages. Her academic and work journey has been inspired by the connection between people and nature in urban and rural communities alike.

William (Bill) Napolitano joins OCPC as a part-time Rivers, Trails and Watershed Resilience and Sustainability Planner with the Comprehensive Planning & Sustainability Department under the Department Director, Laurie Muncy. Bill's responsibilities will focus on the expanding role that OCPC has been asked to play in the furtherance of projects associated with: The Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network, Wild & Scenic Taunton River Stewardship Council's (TRSC) Blueway/Greenway Trail Programs, the Narragansett Bay National Estuary Program (NBNEP), the Watershed Action Alliance (WAA), The Wildlands Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the MA



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Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), as well as several of our established regional watershed and aquifer alliances and committees.

Bill Napolitano retired from SREPDD in the Spring of 2023 and has been a tireless advocate for the Taunton River Trail for the last 30 years, helping to coordinate project partners, map trail logistics, and secure funding from federal and state partners.

“I am very excited to welcome Bill Napolitano and Rhiannon Dugan to the Comprehensive Planning & Sustainability Department. Bill will share his decades of knowledge and expertise protecting the rivers and watersheds of southern Massachusetts with the OCPC region. Rhiannon’s experience connecting with the public will support our region through focus group meetings and visioning sessions as we assist our communities to develop plans for a unique and sustainable future.” – Laurie Muncy

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