

Senior Leadership Team 2019–2020



Maurice Jones
Town Manager

Originally from Dale City, Va. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill in 2018. Former city manager of Charlottesville, Va., where he was instrumental in conducting a community race dialogue initiative, establishing a robust workforce development program, developing affordable housing policies, and carrying out a government operations efficiency study. Led Charlottesville's community relations efforts, working closely with neighborhood associations. Former positions of assistant city manager and communications director at City of Charlottesville. BA in communications from James Madison University and MBA from the Darden School Business at the University of Virginia. He and wife Michele have five children.



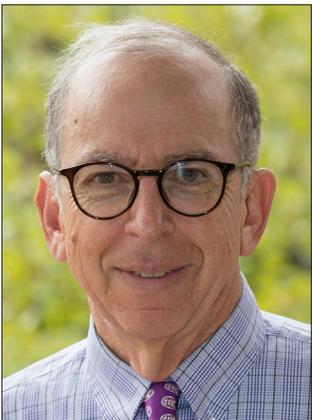
Florentine (Flo) Miller
Deputy Town Manager

A proud native of Kinston, N.C. Deputy Town Manager in Chapel Hill since 2004. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill as Assistant Manager in 1989 after working in Loudoun County government in Leesburg, Va. Other service in local governments includes the City of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, N.C. Received an MPA from UNC-Chapel Hill, and a BA in sociology from UNC-Greensboro. Recipient of the 2009 ICMA Assistant Excellence in Leadership Award in Memory of Buford Watson Jr. Considers it a privilege to serve the community and organization as a staff member of the Town of Chapel Hill.



Mary Jane Nirdlinger
Assistant Town Manager

Grew up in Maryland, Connecticut, Minnesota and Ohio before getting a degree in International Relations at American University in Washington, D.C. Her years living in France and Switzerland as a Rotary scholar led her to graduate studies in Urban Planning at the University of Michigan. She's worked for local government, the U.S. Coast Guard, the private sector, and UNC-Chapel Hill, all the while focused on making great places and safe places. She's the proud mother of two children in the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools and loves to read, write, bike, and help the people around her excel.



Ralph Karpinos
Town Attorney

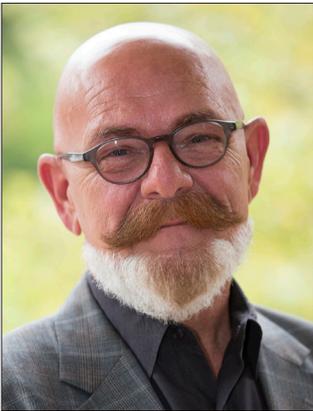
Born in Washington, D.C.; grew up in suburban Maryland. Undergraduate degree from Duke University (History major, editor of student newspaper) 1972; Newspaper reporter, 1973–75; Law degree from University of South Carolina (Articles Editor, Law Review) 1978; Law Clerk, City Attorney's Office, Columbia, S.C. 1976–77; admitted to practice law, North Carolina, 1978; Assistant City Attorney, Winston-Salem, 1978–1985; Town Attorney, Chapel Hill since 1985. Past president, N.C. Association of Municipal Attorneys; past chair, Gov't and Public Sector Section of N.C. Bar Association. Married to Carolyn A. Karpinos, Ret. Attorney; three children; five grandchildren.



Ron Allen

Risk Manager

Born in Sanford, N.C., and moved to Hillsborough, N.C., in 1971. More than 30 years in risk management, loss control, occupational health and safety. He has broad experiences while working for federal, state and local government agencies, including 16 years with the UNC-Chapel Hill. Recognized for innovation in risk management with various designations in risk and safety management. Served on several risk management advisory committees and groups, including the NC Public Risk Management Association Board. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill in 2016 after leaving a privately owned risk management consultant firm. Married to Carolyn R. Allen. They have five children and five active grandchildren.



Dwight Bassett

Economic Development Officer

Joined the Town of Chapel Hill in 2007. Serves with the Triangle Urban Land Institute and a recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation in 2015. Attended Samford University, majored in Business Administration and minored in music. Spent the last 30 years in urban and economic development. Owned three coffee shops, two retail stores and a woodworking studio while working in government. Leads almost all aspects of economic development ranging from initial planning and visions to complex financing of commercial and housing projects.



Chris Blue

Executive Director for Community Safety, Police Chief

Joined Chapel Hill Police Department in 1997. Prior to appointment to Police Chief in 2010, he served as a patrol officer, crime prevention officer, SERT commander, patrol commander, and assistant police chief. Chris received a BA in radio, television, and motion pictures from UNC-Chapel Hill and an MPA from NC State University. He is a 2004 graduate of the Administrative Officers Management Program at NC State University. Board membership includes NC Criminal Justice Education & Training Standards Commission, NC Police Executives Association, NC Association of Chiefs of Police and International Association of Chiefs of Police, Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA, Volunteers for Youth, and NC Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity. Chris and his wife, Natasha, have been married for 24 years, and they have two daughters. Chris is an avid runner and enjoys playing the guitar.



Matt Brinkley

Business Management Assistant Director

Grew up in Asheboro, N.C. BA in political science and MPA, both from Western Carolina University. Began career in local government as a Town Manager in Badin, N.C. from 2003–2006, then moved to Durham to serve as a Budget Analyst from 2006–2009. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill in 2009 as the Budget Manager. Married for 15 years with two children, Cameryn and Cooper.



Susan Brown

Executive Director for Community Arts & Culture, Chapel Hill Public Library Director

Native of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, took her first library job to earn beer money while an undergrad at Virginia Tech, never thinking it would turn into a career. After several years spent working in academic and government libraries, and a stint at UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science where she earned her MLS, she finally found her true calling at a public library. She has worked at public libraries in Wake County, Orange County, and Lawrence, Kan. When she's not thinking about how libraries, arts, history and culture connect our community, she's home with her husband, two young boys and their two dogs, where she likes cook, listen to bluegrass, and root for the Hokies.



Rae Buckley

Organizational and Strategic Initiatives Director

Experienced project manager and community organizer with a wandering eye for learning and growth opportunities. In her role, Rae manages strategic community planning efforts such as the Land Use Management Ordinance Rewrite Project and leads organizational development projects such as the development of the Town's strategic plan. Rae received her BA in philosophy from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and her MPA from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. She's married to an amazing cook and passionate sports fan and has dos hijas in the Spanish dual language program of the CH/C school system.



Loryn Clark

Executive Director for Housing and Community

Grew up in Randolph, N.J. Graduated from the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in city planning and went on to receive a master's degree in city and regional planning from UNC-Chapel Hill. Joined the Town in 1994. Loryn has been able to follow her passion for affordable housing, community engagement and community development through multiple positions within the Town including Community Development Planner, Housing and Neighborhood Services Manager, Interim Assistant Planning Director, and now the Executive Director for Housing and Community. She's married to Jeff, a retired Captain with the Chapel Hill Police Department, and is the proud mom of three football-loving, high-energy boys. Loves pilot programs, prototyping and collaborating and is committed to teamwork.



Scott Clark

Executive Director for Technology

Born in Maine. Graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in computer science. Worked in the private sector for LL Bean and as a shipbuilder before working in state government in Maine. Earned an MPA from University of Maine. Worked as the IT director in Judicial Department followed by the Maine Legislature. Moved to North Carolina and worked for the Town of Cary before becoming the Executive Director for Technology in Chapel Hill. Married for 33 years with two children. Problem solver, listener, innovator and team player.

Tom Clark

Human Resource Manager–Administration



Henry DePietro

Chapel Hill Transit Assistant Director of Operations

Born in New York. Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Dowling College in Oakdale, N.Y. Worked more than 22 years for a transportation company that provided a busing services at over 15 airports in the U.S. and Canada. Employed at the Town of Chapel Hill/Chapel Hill Transit since June 2004. Began as the Operations Manager responsible for both the Fixed Route and Demand Response Operations. In 2012, assumed role of Administrative Services Manager, providing guidance and direction on employee performance, Town/Transit policy and disciplinary action matters. As Assistant Director Operations since 2017, he has oversight of Maintenance, Demand Response and Fixed Route Divisions. Married with a daughter. Lives in Efland, N.C.



Lisa Edwards

Housing Operations Manager

Native of Chapel Hill. Graduated from Wesleyan University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. MBA and an additional Master's in Leadership, both from Pfeiffer University. Always worked in public service beginning as a school bus driver for the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools. Joined the Town in 1996 as an Administrative Assistant in the Police Department. Worked as an HR Generalist with our Human Resource Development Department and a Management Analyst with the Fire Department. Enjoys analyzing and solving problems while encouraging others to lead from where they are.



Phillip Fleischmann

Parks & Recreation Director

Appointed Director of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation in June 2019. Previously served the City of Greensboro as Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation, as Community Recreation Services Division Manager, and in other programming and facility management roles. Began career as an aquatic center supervisor with Raleigh Parks & Recreation in 2004 and also served as countywide athletic services manager with Mecklenburg County. Holds the highest professional designation within the field – Certified Park & Recreation Executive (CPRE). Has a Masters degree in Parks & Recreation Management from UNC-Greensboro and an undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. Serves as an adjunct instructor in community recreation management at UNC-Greensboro. Committed to leading a strong team of staff in providing exceptional parks and recreation opportunities to the Chapel Hill community. Native of Raleigh.



Herbert Griffin

HRD Manager for Operations

A native of Chesapeake, Va. Graduated from Nyack College (New York) with a BS in history and adolescent education, and a master's in psychology-public administration and social change from Walden University (Minnesota). Additionally, completed a Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management with Walden University, and has completed the IPMA- HR Senior Certified Professional Certification. Herbert has most recently worked as Human Resources Specialist Advance Community Health Care in Raleigh. Prior to Advance Community Health, he worked as the Human Resources and Faculty Affairs Manager for Duke University Medical Center, Department of Dermatology and a Human Resources Specialist for North Carolina Central University. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill as a Human Resource Development Consultant in 2016. Change Agent that is Facilitative, Innovative, and Problem Solver.

Vencelin Harris

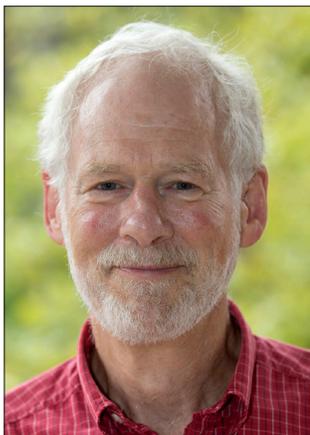
Emergency Management Coordinator



Ben Hitchings

Planning Director

Grew up in New England, moved to the Midwest, married a Southerner, and moved to the South. Along the way, he developed allegiances for an eclectic mix of sports team. An alumnus of UNC's Department of City & Regional Planning, he is a past president of the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), and incoming chair of the APA Chapter Presidents Council. In his free time, he enjoys reading, travel, sprint triathlons, and outdoor adventure with his wife and daughter.



Jim Huegerich

Senior Ombuds

Received M.Ed. (1975), from UNC-Chapel Hill and has been employed since with the Town of Chapel Hill, serving in capacities as Police Crisis Counselor, Interim Town Human Services Director, Director of Crisis and Human Services, and currently as Senior Ombuds. As Senior Ombuds he manages a service to Town employees and residents, providing an impartial, confidential resource for navigating working or living in Chapel Hill, managing or resolving conflict in their lives, and dialoguing across differences.



Jabe Hunter

Assistant Police Chief

Born in Alamance, N.C., and grew up near Philadelphia. Served eight years in the U.S. Air Force and Air Force Reserve before moving to N.C. with his wife in 1997. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill in February 1998 and attended Basic Law Enforcement Training in January of 2000. Since then he has served the Chapel Hill Police Department in a variety of uniformed patrol and investigative capacities. He holds a BS in Criminal Justice from Mount Olive University and an MBA from Pfeiffer University.



Judy Johnson

Planning Operations Manager

Born in Utah and grew up in Connecticut. Went West for college and skiing at Colorado University. Worked for Morris County (NJ) for eight years before heading south and joining the Town of Chapel Hill in 1993. Left the Town for a couple of years for Germany and returned in 2000. Since then she has worked for Planning, as well as Housing and Community. Married for 30 years and has two children. Loves to run, walk on the beach and do outdoor activities.

Chelsea Laws

Inspections Manager



Catherine Lazorko

Communications Manager

Philadelphia native. Prior to joining the Town of Chapel Hill in 2004, she was communications director for NC State College of Design and also for the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science. In New Mexico, she was the PIO for the City of Las Cruces and an alumni editor for NM State University. Journalist at newspapers in West Texas and New Mexico, including the El Paso Times. BA in journalism from University of Texas, MA in English from NMSU. Certified Public Communicator. Past president of NC City and County Communicators (NC3C). Raised four sons with husband David Brower in their beautiful 1,500 sq ft house in Carrboro.



Celisa Lehew

Assistant Police Chief

Born and raised in Northern Ontario, Canada, where she embraced the winter wonderland. Received a BS degree in Criminal Justice from Lake Superior State University and a Masters in Justice Administration from Methodist University. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill as a police officer in 2004. Since then she has served in a variety of uniformed patrol and investigative capacities. She is married and has two daughters.



Brian Litchfield

Chapel Hill Transit Director

Earned his MBA from Wayne State College, where he also completed a BS in business administration. Joined Chapel Hill Transit in 2008 as Assistant Director and previously served as Chief Development Officer for the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART). Named to Mass Transit Magazine's 40 Under 40 list in 2010, honoring professionals who have shown a capacity for innovation, demonstrated leadership and a commitment to making an impact in the public transit industry and is a 2010 graduate of the Eno Transit Executive Seminar. Involved with a number of civic and professional organizations and is also active in the community, recently serving as a coach for youth soccer and flag football. He and his wife, Aarica, have a 7-year old son, Tennyson, and are residents of Carrboro, where they are regular riders on the CM, D and J routes.



Lance Norris

Public Works Director

Native of Anderson, S.C. Holds a BS in Marketing from South Carolina State College, and an MBA from Webster University. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill in 2001 as the Inspections Director and promoted to Public Works Director in 2008. Employed with the City of Florence, S.C., from 1994–1997 as the Director of Community Development and Code Enforcement. In March 1997, he joined Florence County as the Director of the Florence County Building Inspection and Code Enforcement Department. Married to Lisa for 25 years with two daughters, Lauren Ashley and Heather Grace.



Amy Oland

Business Management Director

Born in Los Angeles. Moved to NC to attend UNC-Wilmington (Master's in Accountancy). Licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Worked in public accounting with Dixon Odom for 2 ½ years auditing municipalities. Joined Town in January 2004 as Accountant and was recently named Director of Business Management in February 2019. Responsible for management of department management including accounting and reporting, budget, and purchasing. Married for 17 years with three children, Emma (14), Jacob (12) and Heidi (8). Loving my work in municipal government. Making a difference.



Sabrina Oliver

Communications and Public Affairs Director

Born in Burlington, N.C. Graduate in English/Education from Elon University. Worked as newspaper reporter and editor in Western North Carolina. Began career in local government in planning and administration (1990). Served as Town Clerk/Zoning and Enforcement Coordinator for the Town of Elon for 12 years (1992). Became Town Clerk for Town of Chapel Hill (2005), then Director of Communications and Public Affairs (2007). She and husband Keith have a daughter, two granddaughters, three dogs and three cats. Personable. Collaborator. Looking for consistency.



John Richardson

Community Resilience Officer

Born and raised in Durham, N.C. BS in Biology from Davidson College. Moved to Florida after school to figure out a plan. Earned an MS in growth management and environmental planning from Florida State University. Moved back to NC in 2007 and began a career with the Town of Chapel Hill in the Planning Department. Spent the last 12 years trying to help advance sustainability and planning. More recently added “resilience” to the mix. Married for 12 years with two happy kids that make us laugh every single day.

Chris Roberts

Engineering and Infrastructure Manager

Raised in Indianapolis. Bachelor’s degree in Construction Administration/Civil Engineering from NC State University in 2001. After working as a Senior Estimator at a sitework contractor in Winter Garden, Fla., Chris worked for a private engineering consultant, then Durham County Engineering before joining the Town of Chapel Hill in 2015. Chris is married to a Child Protective Services Social Worker and has two young children. Chris and his wife are avid horse enthusiasts and share a farm in Bahama, N.C., with three horses and two dogs. Chris is also a classic car nut! Collaborator, team player, good listener.



Meeghan Rosen

Chapel Hill Public Library Assistant Director

Born and raised in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. BA in Literature from SUNY Albany. MLIS graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. Began serving the Town of Chapel Hill at the Public Library in 1994. Assistant Director since 2014. Married to a wonderful guy with two great kids. Optimist. Collaborator. Curious, thoughtful, engaged.

Laura Selmer
Program Coordinator
Current Chair of the Employee Forum.



Linda Smith
Parks and Recreation Assistant Director

Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York (SUNY), College at Cortland in Recreation and Master's in sport administration from UNC-Chapel Hill. After a four-year stint in the non-profit world with NC Amateur Sports as the Director of the State Games of North Carolina, Linda spent 15 years with the Town of Cary in the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. Joined Town of Chapel Hill in 2015.



Tiffanie Sneed
Police Senior Legal Advisor

Native of Birmingham, Ala. Graduated in sociology from Yale University and received JD from UNC-Chapel Hill. After a brief stint in private practice concentrating on insurance defense work, discovered that a career in local government suited her best. Worked for the City of Fayetteville for seven years, serving as an Assistant City Attorney, 2003–2004 and Police Legal Advisor, 2004–2010. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill as Senior Legal Advisor in 2010. Married for 15 years with two beautiful sons. Problem Solver. Listener. Collaborator. Poised for action.

Steve Stewart
Special Projects Manager



Matt Sullivan

Fire Chief

Moved to Chapel Hill as a teenager in 1982, graduated from Chapel Hill High School. BA in political science and Master of Social Work, both from UNC-Chapel Hill, Law Degree from NC Central University. Began work with the Town in 1988 as a Public Safety Officer. During career has as served as Police Narcotics Investigator, Crime Prevention Officer, Police Crisis Counselor, Staff Legal Advisor, Interim Executive Director of Planning and Sustainability and Emergency Management Coordinator. Married for 23 years to Kathleen (formerly Wyne) with two children. Systems thinking change agent with a tenacious belief in servant leadership and social justice.



Richard Terrell

Public Works Operations Manager

Native of Orange County. He has served in several management positions during his 41 years with the Town of Chapel Hill, including Public Works Supervisor, Public Works Superintendent, General Services Superintendent, Field Operations Administrator and currently as the Public Works Operations Manager. Respectful. Conscientious. Strategic. Pragmatic. Thorough. Ability to organize information to identify key issues.



Faith Thompson

Housing Director

Born in Camden, N.J., and raised in Oakland, Calif. Bachelor's degree from Mills College in Oakland, J.D. from the University of San Francisco; and MPA from UNC-Chapel Hill. Faith's passion is helping people define their purpose, align their vision with their core values, and create tangible goals. She is a certified mediator, experienced facilitator, and has trained in the areas of emergency dispatch, multiculturalism, visioning and goal setting. She has been with the Town of Chapel Hill since July 2013.



Ross Tompkins

Assistant to the Town Manager

A native of Southern California, holds a BS from Boston College in management and philosophy. Began his professional career in the private sector before joining the Town in 2007. Welcomed to the Manager's Office in 2015 after previous roles in Business Management and Technology Solutions. His peers recognize him as a good listener who helps further collaborative discussions and who is skilled at distilling information and communicating ideas. Husband and father of two. Aikido practitioner since 2008 who seeks to bring the mental and spiritual aspects of martial arts to his work and life.



Cliff Turner

Human Resources Development Director

Born in Chapel Hill and has lived here his entire life. Graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1988 with BA in industrial relations. Started government career as a Deputy Sheriff with the Orange County Sheriff's Office for 11 years. Then worked at UNC-Chapel Hill in Human Resources for over five years before joining the Town of Chapel Hill in 2009. Married for 28 years with two daughters, ages 24 and 17. Facilitative. Learner. Innovative. Engaged.



Sarah Viñas

Housing and Community Assistant Director

Since joining the Town in 2011, Sarah has served in a variety of roles in the Manager's Office, Public Works, and Housing and Community. Previously, she worked in the nonprofit sector for nearly a decade doing community development and anti-poverty work. She served as a Congressional Hunger Fellow in Chicago and Washington, D.C., and subsequently Executive Director of two nonprofit organizations in Immokalee, FL, and Asheville, NC. Sarah holds a BA in Sociology and Religion with a Minor in Community Building and Social Change from Emory University and a Masters of Public Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill. She enjoys running races, speaking Spanish, and traveling. Sarah has a passion for social justice, equitable community engagement, and affordable housing.