

Position Announcement

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



Overview.

The City of Chamblee, Georgia, has initiated an executive search for an Economic Development Director. The Chason Group has been retained by the local government to lead the process.

About the City of Chamblee, Georgia.

Located in the northern sector of the Metro Atlanta MSA, Chamblee, Georgia, is a progressive and vibrant international city. Home to over 30,000 people; nine beautiful parks; a cultural mecca for international restaurants along Buford Highway; the second busiest airport in the state - DeKalb-Peachtree Airport; a heavy rail MARTA station; the Centers for Disease Control; and a thriving business community with a unique sense of entrepreneurship and optimism — Chamblee is truly a city with a rich history that has become a thriving community with a diverse and international flair.

The city's policies are established by a Mayor and six council members. Day to day operations of the city falls on a City Manager who oversees all administrative support and nine departments.

Chamblee has a very active Downtown Development Authority that provides guidance and support for economic development initiatives.

The city has experienced phenomenal growth in recent years due to strong leadership, innovative and targeted incentives, and a cooperative, action-oriented city government.

About the Community.

The City of Chamblee was incorporated by the Georgia legislature on August 17, 1908. It is one of ten cities within DeKalb County.

Initially, Chamblee was known for its pastures, rolling hills and numerous dairies. The city was established at what was then the junction of the Norfolk Southern Railroad and the old Roswell Railroad.

During World War I, much of Chamblee's dairy land was transformed into Camp Gordon, becoming home to 40,000 military personnel. Almost overnight, forty new stores, three theaters, two hotels, and a bowling alley were built to cater to this new population. After WWI, Camp Gordon was closed, but then the base was reopened in 1941 as a Navy Flight Training Center that ultimately became DeKalb Peachtree Airport.

After World War II, the city experienced a growth in its industrial areas, largely based on the opening of the General Motors plant in neighboring Doraville. Large corporations such as Frito-Lay, Kodak, and General Electric built plants

along the newly constructed Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. These corporations provided a strong tax base and employment for more than thirty years.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Chamblee began to see its fabric change. Some of its sustaining industries closed and its housing stock aged. Refugees and immigrants were drawn to the employment potential of metro Atlanta and to the affordable housing found in Chamblee as they began repopulating many neighborhoods along Buford Highway.

The 1990 census dramatically outlined the change in demographics for Chamblee. Seeing this shift in population as a positive step, the city council developed new zoning to address the special needs of a diverse community. The International Village overlay was the first zoning in metro Atlanta that allowed for mixed-use development and championed livable, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods. That resulted in multi-million-dollar redevelopment projects along Buford Highway and throughout the designated International Village area. Simultaneously, the city moved to protect its historic town center by designating a central business district.

As Chamblee progresses and grows into the 21st century, its history is being written in a multitude of languages and into a progressive urban city that is eagerly awaiting its next transformation.



The Position.

The Economic Development Director serves as the City of Chamblee's chief economic development strategist with the continuous goal of putting the city on the international economic development map. The professional is responsible for leading, directing, and facilitating inclusive and strategic economic development initiatives to grow and maintain jobs and increase the business tax base for the City of Chamblee. The Director is accountable for both commercial and industrial recruitment and support services for existing businesses. Other responsibilities include developing, maintaining, and implementing an economic development strategic plan; continuous research and follow-through on various industry sectors that may be a target sector for the city; staying current on relevant trends in economic development and incentives; and present information to city management, elected officials, and other stakeholders as required. The Director represents the City of Chamblee during client meetings and partnership opportunities. The Director oversees the development of programs and tools to promote the creation of jobs and expand the economic base of the city and acts as a staff liaison and Executive Director for the Chamblee Downtown Development Authority (CDDA).



Requirements.

Candidates applying for the director's position must hold a Bachelor's degree, preferably with a MBA or other post-graduate work from an accredited university, or equivalent experience in economic development or a similar field.

Other requirements include extensive experience in the commercial, retail and office sector development and redevelopment; at least ten years of leadership/management experience in economic development, business, government, or non-profit sector; or a combination of these fields.

A proven track record of successfully working with an economic development organization, governments and community stakeholders is extremely important.

Key Attributes.

The search committee for the City of Chamblee is seeking a professional who has keen knowledge and experience in the commercial redevelopment field. Also, applicants should have a proven track record of working with existing businesses to retain employment and investments.

Building and executing the city's economic development strategy and vision of the citizens will be key components for the Director. This will include establishing and being held accountable for tactical objectives.

Excellent communication skills in terms of verbal, written, listening, and digital means will be critical to the success of the position. This will include being comfortable and adept at multi-level communications and complex relationship building scenarios.

Candidates should also be prepared to develop budgets that represent the goals and objectives of economic development for the City of Chamblee.

How to Apply for the Position.

Professionals interested in applying for the Economic Development Director's position with the City of Chamblee may upload a cover letter and resume at www.thechasongroup.com. For more information about the position, candidates may contact Tim Chason at 404.735.0540 or Mark Lytle at 470.279.9388. The deadline for cover letters and resumes to be submitted is January 2, 2023.

Applicants will be evaluated on a weighting scale approved by the city's search committee. Leading candidates will be tasked with completing a detailed application.

