

## Amy Cell Talent News Release

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### Finalists Selected for the Clawson City Manager Search

After a thorough review of 273 applicants, six candidates have been selected as finalists in the search for Clawson's new City Manager. Public interviews will be held from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm on Wednesday, July 22nd, and 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm on Thursday, July 23rd via Zoom. The link will be available on the City' website. Community members are encouraged to attend, hear from the candidates, and complete anonymous feedback forms. Feedback forms will be available at <https://forms.gle/Gg9LE8V2jAsMgNaYA> and will be shared with the City Council.

### Candidate Bios and Background

#### Darcy Long



Darcy D. Long is the former City Manager for the City of Gladstone, MI, where he held this position for two years. Before that, Mr. Long served as the City/Zoning Administrator for the City of Amery, WI for over eight years. While City Administrator, he was instrumental in the development of a \$3.5 million Memory Care Facility that created 31 new jobs on five acres in the heart of downtown.

Mr. Long holds a Master of Public Administration from Northern Michigan University, a Public Manager Certification from Texas Tech University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science

from Lake Superior State University. He is a current member of the ICMA and the Michigan Municipal Executives (MME). Mr. Long has 18 years of experience as a public manager.

### **Cassi Meitl**



Cassi Meitl is a disciplined project manager, inclusive urban planner, and passionate public servant with diverse experiences in community and economic development, and a passion for people and collaboration. Her experiences in leadership, operations, customer service, community engagement, and city management come from roles including Senior Advisor to Mayor Duggan at the City of Detroit, Program Manager in the Public Affairs Department at DTE Energy, Project Planner at Beckett & Raeder, Challenge Detroit Fellow, and Research Assistant at the Detroit Regional Chamber. She is a member of the American Planning Association and Michigan Chapter, Urban Land Institute, and Project Management Institute.

Meitl holds a Master's Degree from Michigan State University in Urban and Regional Planning with a graduate certificate in community engagement and a Bachelor's Degree in Family and Consumer Science with a minor in Business Administration. Originally from Lansing, IL, a community much like Clawson, Cassi has lived in Metro Detroit and Detroit since 2011. In her spare time, Cassi can be found hiking and road cycling with her husband, restoring their 104-year-old house in Detroit, or volunteering for community-building activities with the Historic Boston-Edison Association.

## Michael Smith



Michael Smith serves as the Village Administrator/Clerk for the Village of Wolverine Lake where he works with residents, non-resident property owners and business owners in the Village of Wolverine Lake in all matters pertaining to local government and its administration. He works closely with the Public Works, Fire and Police Departments to ensure the effective administration of Village services. His management responsibilities span from budgeting, risk management, ordinances, grants, contracts, labor negotiations, employee health/safety, clerk functions, and other tasks as directed by the Village Council. Prior to his time at Wolverine Lake he served as the Deputy City Clerk and City Clerk for the City of Clawson for 9 years and prior to that he worked for Oakland County. He has dedicated the past 16 years of his life to public service. He enjoys working with residents and business owners to educate and listen to their concerns and act on items that create positive change and growth in the community.

Smith earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Leadership and Diversity from Grand Valley State University. He also earned a Master of Public Administration degree as well as a Post Master Certificate in Local Government Management from Oakland University. He is a member of ICMA, IIMC, MAMC, MME, mParks, CISMA, and MML.

## **Darchelle Strickland Love**



Darchelle Strickland Love has more than 15 years of leadership and management experience, in a variety of roles, in both the public and private sector. Her strengths are in the areas of strategic planning, project management, process improvement, budget management and organizational development.

Ms. Strickland Love served as the Deputy City Manager for the City of Berkley. She played a key role in developing and implementing policies and procedures, writing internal and external communications and executing a community engagement strategy and information campaign for ballot proposals to fund road improvements and a new community center. Prior to her appointment in Berkley, she served as Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Chief of Staff and Group Executive for three Detroit mayors respectively. In these roles, she provided leadership for her staff and department heads, leading various initiatives on behalf of the mayor. She also served as a management consultant for a large Michigan health insurance provider.

She is a graduate of the University of Detroit and a member of the Society of Human Resource Management.

## BT Irwin



BT Irwin is a Clawson resident with a 20-year history of leading community projects and directing nonprofit organizations. Irwin's career highlights include almost six years at Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County, where he worked with city and county governments to build and renovate affordable housing in five cities. Between 2014 and 2016, he formed a partnership between Rochester University and the cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills that led to the development of a 14-acre public park on university land. More recently, Irwin worked with the Michigan Community Service Commission to create a new statewide program that will increase corporate volunteerism in Michigan communities. As a full-time consultant since 2013, Irwin has helped educational, government, and nonprofit institutions with their strategic plans.

Irwin earned the Associate of Arts from Rochester University (where he was Alumnus of the Year in 2016), Bachelor of Business Administration from Harding University (Searcy, Arkansas), and Executive Certificate in Social Impact Strategy from the School of Public Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania, where he currently serves as a teaching fellow. Irwin's wife, Tracy, is Chief Exhibitions and Enrichment Officer at the Detroit Historical Society. Their son is starting second grade at Schalm Elementary School in Clawson this fall.

## Joseph M. Sobota



Mr. Joseph M. Sobota has nearly 20 years of experience working in local government, holding administrative positions with the cities of Hamtramck, Algonac, Pontiac, and Eastpointe. In Pontiac, Mr. Sobota served as City Administrator where he worked with the local elected officials to restore local control to the city. In Eastpointe, Mr. Sobota served as City Manager, City Clerk, and Personnel Director.

Mr. Sobota possesses a BA from the University of Detroit Mercy in Political Science and Communication Studies, an MPA from Oakland University with a concentration in Local Government Management, and a Post Master's Certificate in Human Resources from Oakland University.

**Interview Schedule** (All interviews will take place via Zoom. The link will be available on the City website.)

Wednesday, July 22nd

7:00 pm - BT Irwin

8:00 pm - Joseph M. Sobota

9:00 pm - Darcy Long

Thursday, July 23rd

7:00 pm - Darchelle Strickland Love

8:00 pm - Cassi Meitl

9:00 pm - Michael Smith

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Amy Cell Talent is a full-service talent acquisition and human resources management firm located in downtown Ypsilanti, Michigan. Drawing from Michigan's deep and diverse talent pool,

Amy Cell Talent is adept at helping municipalities, non-profit organizations, start-ups, and corporations find well-sourced candidates. For more information, including a detailed look at all services, please visit [www.amycelltalent.com](http://www.amycelltalent.com).

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