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Kamenetz names new economic development chief for Baltimore County

Gundersen formerly worked for similar agencies in Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York

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(Enlarge) Daniel Gundersen was named Tuesday as the new director of Baltimore County's Department of Economic Development. (Photo courtesy Baltimore County)

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz has tapped Daniel Gundersen, a former assistant secretary for the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, to be the next director of the county's Department of Economic Development.

Gundersen's "track record of success up and down the east coast is very exciting," Kamenetz said in a release issued Tuesday.

Gundersen is currently a senior advisor for Econsult Corporation based in Philadelphia, Pa.

As part of that job, he was selected as a consultant to a White House Task Force on disaster recovery related to last year's BP oil spill, according to his resume. In that duty, he assessed short- and long-term economic strategies for Gulf communities.

Prior to that, Gundersen served as the commissioner of New York State Department of Economic Development (2007-08), where he worked on growth strategies for economic development in upstate New York.

He also served as the executive deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, 2003-07.

He was assistant secretary for business development for the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, from 2000-2003, serving as the "chief marketing official for the state," according to his resume.

The release from the county said that, "In the years since serving as a top Maryland official, he kept his ties to the area where his wife is employed and their daughter graduated from the Park School of Baltimore."

"The county executive's vision for targeted economic development is very exciting, and I look forward to becoming a member of the team that will move that vision forward," Gundersen said in a statement on Tuesday..

Gundersen is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and holds a master's degree in government administration. He also attended the Harvard Business School's executive education program on global strategy.

He currently serves on the board of the International Economic Development Council, and just last month, he was named as one of three finalists for the post of president and CEO of the Atlanta Development Authority in Atlanta, Ga., according to the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

Gundersen replaces David Iannucci, who held the post previously but was not reappointed by Kamenetz when the new executive came on board.

Gundersen is being hired with a salary of \$185,000. Iannucci made \$164,000 and worked for the county from 2003 to 2010.

Gundersen will serve as the acting director, effective June 1.

Kamenetz will submit his nomination to the County Council for confirmation prior to that date, and the council will have 40 days to vote on the request.



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