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Taylor, TX | Economic Development Corp.

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Board of Directors

Board of Directors

The Corporation is managed by a five-member Board appointed by the City Council for three-year terms.

The current Board includes:

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Kelly Cmerek, Chair
Re-Appointed December 2017
Term ends January 2023

Kelly Cmerek has more than 20 years of banking experience and has been with BBVA Compass Bank for over eighteen years with the last fifteen in his position as Vice President for the SBA Lending Group.

Before joining BBVA Compass, Mr. Cmerek was a commercial lender at an independent Austin bank. He began his banking career in 1995 after earning his bachelor's degree in finance with honors from The University of Texas at Austin.

In 2015, he surpassed the \$200 million mark in SBA loans, a prestigious accomplishment among lenders. He is responsible for originating transactions for financing requests from \$350,000 to \$5,000,000.

Mr. Cmerek is a life-long resident of Taylor and now lives here with his wife, Alayne, and their three children.



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Joe Burgess, 2nd Vice Chair

Appointed July 2017

Term ends January 2023

Joe Burgess is a photojournalist and co-owner of Zia Publishing, Corp., publisher of New Mexico Traveler hotel-room book and several life style and visitor publications. He has 25 years of supervisory and management experience in the copper smelting/sulfuric acid production industry. He was a licensed General Contractor in New Mexico and has supervised the construction of 100 and 200 house townsite projects with commercial buildings. His military service includes three years during the Vietnam era as a Nuclear Weapons Electronics Specialist and he served two terms as a county commissioner.

A recent resident of Taylor, he serves as Chair of the Economic Restructuring Subcommittee for Main Street, is a member of the Chamber Business Expo and Job Fair Committee and is a volunteer docent at Taylor's Moody Museum. He previously served on the Main Street Advisory Board and the Taylor Marketing Team. He is president of Friends of the Moody Museum and a member of the Chamber Expo and Job Fair Committee. He previously chaired a Taylor Main Street Committee and served on the original Taylor Marketing Team.

Joe's wife, Nancci Phillips-Burgess, is an IT consultant, having retired after 25 years as an IT Project Manager for the DOD and the Executive and Federal Judiciary Branches. She is currently a Taylor Chamber of Commerce Board Member.

Joe studied International Relations at Stanford University and the University of the Americas in Mexico City and completed a Business Management Program at the American Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, AZ.

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Sam Dowdy, Sr., Secretary

Appointed March 2021

Term ends February 2024

Appointed February 2019

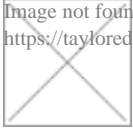
Term ends February 2022

Sam Dowdy, Sr., is a master plumber, entrepreneur, company founder, and visionary with more than 47 years of experience in the plumbing trade. Sam Betty Day has over 30 years experience in the electric power industry. She has been with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) since 2000 and learned plumbing on the gulf coast and took to the trade very quickly. After acquiring his master's license in 1981, he relocated to the Austin area along with his wife Rhonda. Together, they launched S&D Plumbing and soon became a staple in the Taylor business community, earning a reputation for high-quality, honest service. S&D Plumbing has thrived in Taylor and now employs more than 40 talented men and women who deliver exceptional plumbing service on a daily basis. Sam has won numerous awards for his work at power on an electric grid that connects more than 46,500 miles of transmission lines and 600+ generation units. It also performs financial settlement for the "Plumber of the Year" from Plumbing & Mechanical Magazine. S&D Plumbing & Mechanical administers retail switching for nearly eight million premises in competitive choice areas.

Ms. Day has managed various aspects of ERCOT's competitive wholesale and retail market responsibilities during her tenure. She currently oversees Compliance, Critical Infrastructure Security & Facilities, and Market Rules. She earned her bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics from Berea College in Kentucky and attended graduate school at the University of Kentucky. Prior community service includes two years on the Planning and Zoning Commission. She lives in Taylor with her husband John.

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Dwayne Ariola, Treasurer
Appointed January 2018
Term ends January 2024

Dwayne Ariola is a native of Taylor and a 1985 graduate of Taylor High School. He served on the Planning and Zoning Commission, and was elected to the At Large Taylor City Council position in May 2017, with his term ending in May, 2020. He is a member of Taylor Kiwanis and Vice Commander of the American Legion Post 39. He is a Retired Master Chief (Submarines) of twenty years. Volunteer activities include Community Clean Up Days, among other events.

Mr. Ariola and his wife Alice Marie have combined one son, Koby, and two daughter, Joanna and Jennifer. He is currently Director of Technical Services, Mountain State-South for Commissioning Agents, Inc.