



PRESS RELEASE

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City of Hemet Appoints Benigno (Ben) Sandoval Economic Development Director

Hemet, CA – September 26, 2025 – The City of Hemet is thrilled to announce the appointment of Benigno (Ben) Sandoval as the new Economic Development Director. Sandoval, who has served as the city’s Economic Development Manager for the past 19 months, has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a proven track record of driving economic growth and innovation in the community.

During his tenure, Sandoval has spearheaded transformative initiatives that have elevated Hemet’s economic landscape. Notable achievements include co-authoring the award-winning *Hemet RISES Economic Strategy*, which earned an Award of Merit from the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED). He also led the development of the Hemet Regional Economic Summit, the Vehicle Dealership Tax Sharing and Economic Program, the Independence Day Drone Show at the Hemet Auto Mall, the Downtown Kitchen Grant Incentive Program, and the Hemet Concert Series. These initiatives have strengthened local businesses, attracted new investment, and enhanced community engagement.

“Ben’s energy and relentless efforts to drive business growth have been a game-changer for Hemet,” said City Manager Mark Prestwich. “His innovative approach and dedication to fostering economic vitality make him the ideal leader to guide our city’s economic development into the future.”

Sandoval brings over 20 years of expertise in business, economic development, marketing, economics, public relations, and workforce development. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a minor in Public Relations from California State University, Domínguez Hills, and is a Certified Economic Developer through Fresno State University. His extensive career includes working with thousands of businesses to deliver tailored solutions that drive growth, earning him a stellar reputation for understanding market trends and implementing effective strategies.

As Economic Development Director, Sandoval will continue to leverage his experience to foster Hemet’s economic prosperity, support businesses of all sizes, and enhance the community’s quality of life.

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