

CHRISTOPHER R. ECK

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11 October 2021

Renina Fuller
Director of Human Resources
The City of Palm Coast
160 Lake Avenue
Palm Coast, Florida 32164

Dear Ms. Fuller:

I would like to be considered for the position of Palm Coast City Manager. I have over 22 years of experience working in Florida local governments, as a civilian for the military, and for the federal government. I am familiar with your beautiful city, having passed through there this summer and because my wife grew up in nearby Ormond Beach.

Currently, I serve as the Executive Director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant making arm of the National Archives of the United States, established by Congress to provide grants to preserve state and local historical records and publish the authoritative writings of the Founding Fathers (<https://www.founders.archives.gov/>) to be freely accessible to the American people. I work directly for the Archivist of the United States, David S. Ferriero, and the Commission includes members for the United States Senate (currently Sen. Dan Sullivan – AK) and House (formerly Rep. Mark Meadows – NC, now vacant) and others.

In prior federal government roles, I served at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, helping to creatively plan and deploy teams of professionals around the world (often in logistically challenging locations) for the recovery of missing US military personal, meet with elected officials and the public across the country and in the territories to ensure the deployment of FirstNet (the emergency broadband communications network for first responders), conduct base planning at military installations across the United States, and review federal construction projects in eight southern states, including Florida. This placed me in roles to ensure that tens of millions of taxpayer dollars were wisely and appropriately spent, to work with officials at all levels of government, and to be accountable to the American people.

My experience in Florida allowed me to serve as the head of the historic preservation agency for both Broward County and Miami-Dade County. In this capacity, I became intimately familiar with the needs of Florida's local governments and balancing land development with resource conservation. I was honored to be appointed to both the City of Fort Lauderdale's Community Appearance Board and Historic Preservation Board, serving as a member and chair of both.

On a personal note, I believe that it is important to be involved in the community that you live. My family and I are active members of our church and I served as a volunteer at America's oldest English-speaking Catholic Church in Chapel Point, Maryland to assist in preparations for its 375th anniversary. My wife and I both have family in Florida and are looking at opportunities to be closer to them.

I am sure that you will receive a number of qualified applicants for this position. However, I believe I have the broad experience and skills necessary to serve effectively as the Palm Coast City Manager, derived from working for elected officials in Florida, working with high-level officials in the federal government and the military to creatively solve problems, interacting and communicating effectively with members of the public to win support for programs, and managing public funds efficiently.

I look forward to hearing from you and the Search Committee regarding your consideration of my background for this position.

Respectfully,

Christopher R. Eck

Attachments: List of References, Resume

References:

Captain Sam Stephenson
Port Everglades Pilot; past president, Florida Harbor Pilots Association
Telephone: 954-629-1342
Email: captainsam4@yahoo.com

Christopher J. Ryan, Esq.
Partner, Ryan & Ryan, Dania Beach; past chair, Broward County Historical Commission
Telephone: 954-920-2921
Email: cjr@ryanlawfl.com

Bob Carr
Executive Director, Archaeological & Historical Conservancy, Davie, FL
Telephone: 954-792-9776
Email: archlgcl@bellsouth.net

Doug Smith, PLA, ASLA
Principal & former president, EDSA, Ft. Lauderdale; board member, Stranahan House Museum
Telephone: 954-524-3330
Email: dsmith@edsaplan.com

Andy Bielakowski
Federal Preservation Officer, First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), Reston, VA
Telephone: 443-207-0519
Email: andrew.bielakowski@firstnet.gov

More can be provided upon request.

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EDUCATION

Law, Doctor of Law (JD), University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, FL

History and Historical Archaeology, Master of Arts (MA), University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, MA
(Award - Best Graduate Thesis)

History, Bachelor of Arts (BA), *Minor in Communications*, Loyola University New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

EXPERIENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC),
National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC, April 2018-Present

- Serve as the executive staff to the Commission chair, Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, and Commissioners including two Presidential appointees, a US Senator, a Member of Congress, representatives of the US Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Department of Defense, Department of State, and six professional historical and archival association representatives.
- Manage a staff of seven and an annual budget of about \$10 million as the grant-making arm of the National Archives that provides funds and enters into cooperative agreements to support projects that arrange, preserve, and make publicly accessible non-federal historical records (documents, photographs, maps, and audio-visual recordings) both online and in print publications.

TERRESTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGER, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), US
Department of Defense, Arlington, VA, December 2016-March 2018

- Served as the terrestrial archaeology program manager for the Strategic Partnerships / Partnerships and Innovations (SP/PI) Directorate, working with non-agency researchers and universities to undertake complex archival, historical, anthropological, and archaeological work as partners to assist the Department of Defense in identifying and recovering missing American military personnel.
- Developed partnership relationships between the agency and archaeologists in the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand to meet the needs of Asia-Pacific and Europe-Mediterranean directorates and managed partners in their surveillance and recovery work around the world, including Papua New Guinea and eastern Siberia.

FEDERAL PRESERVATION OFFICER, First Responders Network Authority (FirstNet), US Department of Commerce, Reston, Virginia, July 2014-December 2016

- Served as the first Federal Preservation Officer for the First Responder Network Authority (“FirstNet”) at the agency’s headquarters in Reston, VA, under the Director of Environmental Compliance within the Office of Chief Counsel and I established the review program for potential effects to archaeological and historical sites and managed a Deputy Federal Preservation Officer.
- Provided advice, guidance and expertise on compliance with federal historic preservation, archaeological protection, and environmental laws and regulations, as well as undertook consultation with all American Indian tribes, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations for the agency to meet its Congressional mandate of deploying a multi-billion dollar nationwide, public safety broadband network in all 50 states, 5 Pacific and Caribbean territories and the District of Columbia.

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM MANAGER (ARCHAEOLOGIST), Air National Guard (ANG), National Guard Bureau, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, December 2012-July 2014

- Served as the command-level National Cultural Resources Program Manager for the Air National Guard’s Installations and Mission Support Directorate (A7) at its headquarters on Joint Base Andrews, Maryland to provide professional guidance and expertise on potential impacts to archaeological and historical resources, as well as provide guidance on Native American consultation issues for Air National Guard Installations in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and all US territories.
- Worked with base Commanders and their Environmental Managers in the performance of their duties complying with each installation’s cultural resources management plan (ICRMPs) and advising them for compliance with federal archaeological, environmental, and historic preservation laws through the preparation of Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) and Programmatic Agreements (PAs) in consultation with state historic preservation offices (SHPOs), tribal historic preservation offices (THPOs) and local stakeholders.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER, Public Buildings Service (PBS), US General Services Administration, SE Regional Headquarters, Atlanta, Georgia, September 2007-December 2012

- Served as a Regional Historic Preservation Officer working for the Regional Chief Architect in the Design and Construction Division, Public Buildings Service of GSA in Atlanta and provided archaeological and historical subject matter expertise and technical assistance to and support for the agency’s design and construction projects associated with the management of 39,000,000 square feet of owned and leased federal properties, including over 80 historic buildings in eight Southern states.
- Provided guidance and direction on major and minor issues, both novel and routine, involving new construction, major rehabilitation of existing historic facilities, and small and mid-size repair and alteration projects that may affect archaeological and historical resources on federal properties and conducted archaeological field investigations as necessary to assess potential effects. Selected as the Acting Site Selection and Acquisition Branch Chief (GS-14) managing a team of realty specialists, environmental specialists, historic preservation specialists and cost estimators in the Professional Services Division, June 2010-October 2010.

ADMINISTRATOR & COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER, Broward County Historical Commission, Broward County Board of County Commissioners, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, February 2002-August 2007

- Served as the government executive for metropolitan Fort Lauderdale’s historic preservation agency reporting to a 20-member board and the elected Broward County Board of County Commissioners, providing expert advice to both elected and appointed leaders, preparing status and progress reports on archaeological, historical, and historic preservation concern and recommending solutions to them.

- Managed an independent government agency, including an historical archives, research library, and museum, for Broward County, an area with a population of nearly 2 million residents, that provided county government administrators, city officials, and tribal governments with the regulatory review of development and construction permitting that affected archaeological and historical resources and interacted with the public and local, state, tribal and federal environmental and cultural resources agencies as well as local, state, & federal officials.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER, Miami-Dade County Office of Historic Preservation, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Miami, Florida, May 1999-February 2002

- Served as the governmental executive for metropolitan Miami's historic preservation agency, reporting to a 15-member board and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, providing leadership with review of the agency's work protecting archaeological and historical resources, as well as conducting budgetary and long-range planning. Oversaw the creation of the Office of Historic Preservation as an independent county agency and its successful separation from the Office of Community Development with a staff comprised of an archaeologist, architectural historian, historic landscape architect, fine arts specialist and secretary.
- Regularly consulted with state and tribal officials on sensitive archaeological finds, such as the discovery of unmarked prehistoric human burials, that were found during land development activities and helped to develop site preservation and reburial plans in accordance with local, state and federal law, tribal practices, and archaeological best practices.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Review of *Territorial Papers of the United States, 1764-1953*, research database of digitized primary historical documents and transcriptions, published by Readex, for the *Society for History of the Federal Government* newsletter, *The Federalist*. April 2020, pp. 130-131.

Christopher R. Eck, *Southern Maryland's Historic Landmarks*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, 2016. (Discusses prominent historical and archaeological sites in three Maryland counties.)

"Preserving Heritage: The Role of the Media," in *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*, edited by Claire Smith, Springer Science + Business Media, January 2014.

"A Brief Note on a Previously Unrecorded South Florida Shipwreck: *The Iron Queen* (1849)," in *Broward Legacy*, 31(1) (2011): 15-17.

"South Florida's Prelude to War: Army Correspondence Concerning Miami, Fort Dallas, and the Everglades Prior to the Outbreak of the Third Seminole War, 1850-1855," in *Tequesta: The Journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida*, LXII (2002): 68-115.

"Old Cutler and the Deering Estate," in *Miami's Historic Neighborhoods*. Edited by Becky Roper Matkov. San Antonio, Historical Publishing Network, 2001, pp. 123-128.

"Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water: Historic Preservation Disaster Planning in Miami-Dade County, Florida," in *CRM: Cultural Resource Management*, special issue on disaster management, 23(6) (2000): 11-13.

SELECT PROFESSIONAL, VOLUNTEER & CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

Loyola University New Orleans Alumni Association, Board Member, October 2020 to Present.

St. Ignatius Parish and St. Thomas Manor, History Committee, Chapel Point, Maryland, Member, November 2013-2016, the nation's oldest continuous Catholic parish in English America (est. 1641), which is also the oldest continuous Jesuit parish in the world since 1662.

Construction Industry Institute (CII), University of Texas-Austin, Best Practices Committee, Co-Chair, 2008-2010

Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, Board of Trustees, Tallahassee, 2005-2007.

Florida Historical Museums Educational Exhibit Review Panel, March 2006, appointed by Secretary of State Cobb, to assist in the review of grant applications and to make recommendations for funding to the Florida Legislature.

Stranahan House, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, October 2003-August 2007, member, elected to the board of directors to assist in overseeing the activities of this National Register-listed historical and archaeological site, the oldest building in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

City of Fort Lauderdale Historic Preservation Board, Fort Lauderdale, June 2001 to April 2005, member, appointed by Mayor Jim Naugle; reappointed in June 2004 by Commissioner Dean Trantalis; elected chair June 2004-April 2005.

Miami Circle Planning Group, Miami, November 2000-November 2003, member, appointed by Secretary of State Katherine Harris, for the management planning for this National Historic Landmark-listed prehistoric archaeological site after its purchase by the state.