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Concord Deputy City Manager resigns for promotion in Florida
By Jamie L. Costa

After nearly 15 years working in Concord, Deputy City Manager Carlos Baia has left to become the new city manager of Temple Terrace, Florida.

Baia was announced as one of four finalists for the job in early August and was interviewed publicly on Aug. 18. He accepted the position earlier this month and began working in Temple Terrace, which is located near Tampa, Fla., just as Hurricane Ian was developing in the Gulf of Mexico.

In Concord, Matt Walsh was appointed interim deputy city manager while the city looks for a permanent replacement. Walsh, who was the city's director of development and special projects, will assume managerial responsibilities for the Community Development Department as it moves forward with ongoing projects and initiatives, according to the city's weekly newsletter.

"For positions like this one, a nationwide search is conducted but the timeframe for that has not been determined yet," said Concord public information officer Stefanie Breton.

In several preliminary interviews with Temple Terrace, Baia noted that his biggest success while serving the City of Concord was the redevelopment of Main Street, which was funded in part through a federal grant. The project, which included input from community members and city officials, increased safety, revitalized public space, reduced commercial vacancy rates by half and led to the construction of around 200 units of housing.

He complimented Temple Terrace officials for their "debt averse" attitude, since the community only owed \$587 per person. In Concord, which owes more than \$102 million, the city has four times as much municipal debt per person, not including the school district.

Baia was ultimately selected out of 38 applicants to fill the vacancy of the former city manager who was fired from his position in February due to criminal allegations.

Of the 38 applicants, the decision was narrowed down to four that were chosen from a list of the top 10 applicants that were ranked by Colin Baenziger and Associates, a nationally recognized executive recruiting firm, according to the Temple Terrace website.

His competition included Anne Fritz, the Chief Financial Officer of the city of St. Petersburg, Florida; Mark Orme, the City Manager of Chico, California; and Steve Kelley, the County Judge Executive, equivalent to a county manager, of Pulaski County, Kentucky.

Concord City Manager Tom Aspell did not return the Monitor's phone calls for this story.