

# Senior Leadership Team 2023



**Chris Blue**  
Interim Town Manager

Joined Chapel Hill Police Department in 1997. Prior to appointment to Police Chief in 2010, he served in numerous roles including as a patrol officer, crime prevention officer, SERT commander, patrol commander, and assistant police chief. Chris received a BA in radio, television, and motion pictures from UNC Chapel Hill and an MPA from NC State University. He is a 2004 graduate of the Administrative Officers Management Program at NC State University. Board membership includes the NC Criminal Justice Education & Training Standards Commission, NC Police Executives Association, NC Association of Chiefs of Police and International Association of Chiefs of Police, Chapel Hill Carrboro YMCA, Volunteers for Youth, and NC Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity. Chris and his wife, Natasha, have been married for 24 years, and they have two daughters. Chris is an avid runner and enjoys playing the guitar.



**Loryn Clark**  
Deputy Town Manager

Grew up in Randolph, N.J. Graduated from the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in city planning and went on to receive a master's degree in city and regional planning from UNC Chapel Hill. Joined the Town in 1992 as an intern while in graduate school. Loryn followed her passion for affordable housing, community engagement and community development through multiple positions within the Town including Community Development Planner, Housing and Neighborhood Services Manager, Interim Assistant Planning Director, and the Executive Director for Housing and Community. She has served as Deputy Town Manager since June of 2021. She's married to Jeff, a retired Captain from the Chapel Hill Police Department, and is the proud mom of three fantastic boys. Enjoys engaging with our employees and the community, pilot programs and collaborating.



**Mary Jane Nirdlinger**  
Deputy Town Manager

Grew up in the Midwest before getting a degree in International Relations at American University in Washington, D.C. Two years living in France and Switzerland as a Rotary scholar led her to graduate studies in Urban Planning at the University of Michigan. She's worked for local government, the U.S. Coast Guard, the private sector, and UNC-Chapel Hill, all the while focused on making great places. Mary Jane joined the Town in 2009 and her former positions include Assistant Planning Director and Executive Director of Planning and Sustainability. She's served in her current role since March 2017. Mary Jane is the proud mother of two young adults and loves to read, write, bike, and help the people around her excel.



**Ann Anderson**  
Town Attorney

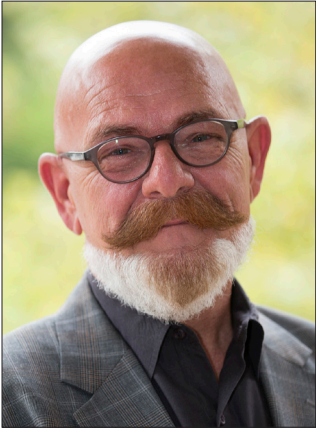
Ann has lived in Chapel Hill for most of the last three decades and is an alumna of UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC School of Law. She came to the Town after a tenured professorship at the UNC School of Government, where she served as a faculty member from 2007 to 2020. Before her career brought her back to UNC, Ann was an attorney at Kennedy Covington in Raleigh and Durham, specializing in litigation. Ann's husband, Dev, is a long-time Duke employee, and their three sons attend Chapel Hill public schools.



## Anita Badrock

### Senior Ombuds

Anita, Transylvania County native, has spent most of her adult life studying, living, and working in Chapel Hill. She's been a local small-business owner, consultant, community volunteer, and non-profit professional before joining the Town in 2015. Anita loves her role as a Town Ombuds, providing confidential, informal help to residents and employees about anything that is impacting their experience of living, working, or playing in our community. Anita's immediate family includes people from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and they often joke that they convene their own United Nations every year at holiday season. She and her husband Roger have four children, three grandchildren, and a wide assortment of "family by choice" that they cherish.



## Dwight Bassett

### Director of Economic Development and Parking Services

Joined the Town of Chapel Hill in 2007. Has spent the last sixteen years implementing the Economic Development Strategy (2008), and completing retail, office, and housing market analysis and studies for development purposes. Subsequently, the Town adopted a new Commercial Development Strategy (2016) with the Vision of "Taking our place on the map of like cities in research and development." The Town also hired EY consulting to complete a recovery plan, ReVive, during the pandemic. Has served with the Triangle Urban Land Institute and is recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation in 2015. Attended Samford University, majored in Business Administration and minored in music. Spent the last 36 years in urban and economic development. Owned three coffee shops, two retail stores and a woodworking studio while working in government. Has led all aspects of economic development ranging from initial planning and visions to complex financing of commercial and housing projects.



## Faith M. Brodie

### Housing Director

Born in Camden, N.J., and raised in Oakland, Calif. Bachelor's degree from Mills College in Oakland, J.D. from the University of San Francisco; and MPA from UNC-Chapel Hill. Faith's passion is helping people define their purpose, align their vision with their core values, and create tangible goals. She is a certified mediator, experienced facilitator, and has trained in the areas of emergency dispatch, multiculturalism, visioning, and goal setting. She has been with the Town of Chapel Hill since July 2013.



## Susan Brown

### Executive Director for Strategic Communications

Native of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, took her first library job to earn beer money while an undergrad at Virginia Tech, never thinking it would turn into a career. After grad school at UNC-Chapel Hill, worked at public libraries in Wake County, Orange County, and Lawrence, KS. Returned to Chapel Hill in 2013 as Library Director, took on additional duties as Director of Community Arts & Culture in 2018. When she's not thinking about how libraries, arts, history and culture connect our community, she's home with her husband, two sons, and their three dogs, where she likes cook, listen to bluegrass, and root for both the Hokies and the Heels.



## Chris Butts

### CIO and IT Director

Chris has a strong mix of experience as a director and a vision for Technology Solutions. He earned his undergraduate degree at UNC and master's in Geospatial Information Science and Technology at N.C. State University. Chris has worked in local government for 13 years, the last eight of them being as Director of Information Technology for Moore County. Originally from Western North Carolina, he currently resides in Durham with his wife, Melody; their 3-year-old daughter, Ellison; and dog, Tebow. Chris enjoys hiking, gardening, trying to be more handy around the house, and cheering on the Tar Heels.



## Atuya Cornwell

### Parks and Recreation Director

Atuya started with the Town on April 4, 2022, as assistant director, and stepped into the interim director position on November 30, 2022. His career spans nearly 20 years within public sector recreation and athletic operations, programming, and management roles. He is a nationally Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) and has been recognized by the National Recreation and Park Association with several awards and scholarships. A native of Charlotte, Atuya holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise and Sports Science from UNC-Greensboro and a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in government services from Pfeiffer University.



## Kelly Drayton

### Emergency Management Coordinator

Native of Alpharetta, Georgia, Kelly took her first public safety job as an Emergency Medical Technical (EMT) during her time at Elon University, where she double majored in Applied Mathematics and Women's Gender Studies. After graduation, she enrolled in the local fire academy and was hired by the Chapel Hill Fire Department shortly after graduating number one in her class. Kelly spent several years with the City of Raleigh helping to build their Emergency Management program and returned to the Town in 2019 to serve in a similar capacity. She has since completed her Master of Public Administration from NC State University with a concentration in public policy. When she's not thinking about how to increase preparedness and resilience for our community, you can find her hiking, rooting for The Pack, and hanging out with her family.



## Chelsea Laws

### Building & Development Services Director

A "native" of Chapel Hill, Chelsea joined the Town in 1996 as a high school apprentice in the Inspections Department. Taking full advantage of the opportunity and completing the 4-year apprenticeship in three years, she received the honor of being recognized as "Outstanding Third Year Apprentice" from the NC Dept of Labor. Chelsea holds a standard level three building certification in inspections with the State of North Carolina and is a member of various associations and groups. With more than 25 years of public service experience under her belt, Chelsea continues to enjoy helping customers and community partners genuinely understand why what she and her staff do is so essential to maintaining a safe community and built environment. A strong believer in positive thinking and the Golden Rule, Chelsea strives to take her calm demeanor into every life situation, using it as a tool to problem solve and build positive relationships. Chelsea enjoys working with her hands in the garden, on home projects, and spreading goodness to others. Chelsea and her husband of 20+ years, share four children, one granddaughter.



## Celisa Lehew

### Police Chief

Chief of Police Celisa Lehew leads the Guardians of the Hill of the Chapel Hill Police Department. With 19 years of professional policing experience, including five years as Assistant Chief of Police, she is a proven leader in the law enforcement profession initiating collaborative efforts with our community resulting in safe spaces for all. She is notable for being a visionary, innovative, and progressive leader with a history of managing both internal and external relationships to develop trust and create opportunities for collaborative problem solving and partnerships. Celisa holds a master's degree in Justice Administration from Methodist University and bachelor's degree from Lake Superior State University, graduate of Senior Management Institute for Police (PERF). Celisa is passionate for her community, serving as a board chair for Our Children's Place of Coastal Horizons and Dispute Settlement Center, member of the Each Chapel Hill Rotary, as well as a member of the board for North Carolina Police Executive Association, Town's staff liaison for the Community Policing Advisory Committee and Justice in Action Committee. She is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, North Carolina Chiefs of Police, Police Executive Research Forum, National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, and International Association of Chiefs of Police. Celisa was named a 2019 Woman of Achievement by Chapel Hill Magazine. Celisa shares her passion on community policing, diversion efforts, ethics, leadership, and investigations at national speaking engagements. Born and raised in Canada, she is an outdoors enthusiast and Toronto Maple Leaf's hockey fan. Celisa has been happily married to her husband Steve for 18 years, who has retired from a career in law enforcement. Together they have the joy of being parents to two amazing daughters and their Frenchie Frankie.



## Brian Litchfield

### Chapel Hill Transit Director

Earned his MBA from Wayne State College, where he also completed a BS in business administration. Joined Chapel Hill Transit in 2008 as Assistant Director and previously served as Chief Development Officer for the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART). Named to Mass Transit Magazine's 40 Under 40 list in 2010, honoring professionals who have shown a capacity for innovation, demonstrated leadership and a commitment to making an impact in the public transit industry and is a 2010 graduate of the Eno Transit Executive Seminar. Involved with several civic and professional organizations and is also active in the community, recently serving as a coach for youth soccer and flag football. He and his wife, Aarica, have a son, Tennyson, and are residents of Carrboro, where they are regular riders on the CM, D and J routes.



## Jay Mebane

### Fire Chief

Jay is a native of Burlington, N.C. raised by his single mother. He was selected to serve as the Chapel Hill's Fire Chief beginning July 3, 2023. His career began more than 15 years ago at the City of Burlington where he worked in Police, Inspections, and the Fire Department. He holds an associate degree from Durham Technical Community College, a bachelor's degree from Fayetteville State University, and is a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) degree from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Married to Brooke for 14 years with three children, Chance, Madisyn, and AJ.



## Lance Norris

### Public Works Director

Native of Anderson, S.C. Holds a BS in Marketing from South Carolina State College, and an MBA from Webster University. Joined the Town of Chapel Hill in 2001 as the Inspections Director and was promoted to Public Works Director in 2008. Employed with the City of Florence, S.C., from 1994–1997 as the Director of Community Development and Code Enforcement. In March 1997, he joined Florence County as the Director of the Florence County Building Inspection and Code Enforcement Department. Married to Lisa for 30 years with two daughters, Lauren Ashley ages 25 and Heather Grace 21.



## Amy Oland

### Business Management Director and Finance Officer

Born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. Moved to NC for college and graduated from UNC Wilmington with a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Accounting. Licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Began career in public accounting with Dixon Odom for 2 ½ years auditing municipalities which sparked a passion for local government. Joined the Town in January 2004 and served in several roles including Accountant, Senior Accountant, Accounting Manager, and Assistant Director, before being named Director of Business Management in February 2019. Responsible for managing the Town's financial operations including accounting and reporting, budget, procurement, debt and investments, payroll, accounts payable, and revenue collection. Married to Christian for 21 years with three children, Emma, Jacob, and Heidi.



## Sabrina Oliver

### Governance Services Director

Born in Burlington, N.C. Graduate in English/Education from Elon University. Worked as newspaper reporter and editor in Western North Carolina. Began career in local government in planning and administration (1990). Served as Town Clerk/Zoning and Enforcement Coordinator for the Town of Elon for 12 years (1992). Became Town Clerk for Town of Chapel Hill (2005), then Director of Communications and Public Affairs (2007). She and husband Keith have a daughter, two granddaughters. Personable. Collaborator. Looking for consistency.



## Meehan Rosen

### Interim Director for Library and Community Arts & Culture

Born and raised in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. BA in Literature from SUNY Albany. MLIS graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. Began serving the Town of Chapel Hill at the Public Library in 1994. Assistant Director since 2014. Married to a wonderful guy with two great kids. Optimist. Collaborator. Curious, thoughtful, engaged.



## Ross Tompkins

### Assistant to the Town Manager

A native of Southern California, holds a BS from Boston College in management and philosophy. Began his professional career in the private sector before joining the Town in 2007. Welcomed to the Manager's Office in 2015 after previous roles in Business Management and Technology Solutions. His peers recognize him as a good listener who helps further collaborative discussions and who is skilled at distilling information and communicating ideas. Husband and father of two. Aikido practitioner since 2008 who seeks to bring the mental and spiritual aspects of martial arts to his work and life.



## Cliff Turner

### Human Resource Development Director

Born in Chapel Hill and has lived here his entire life. Graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1988 with BA in industrial relations. Started government career as a Deputy Sheriff with the Orange County Sheriff's Office for 11 years. Then worked at UNC-Chapel Hill in Human Resources for over five years before joining the Town of Chapel Hill in 2009. Promoted into Director role in November 2016. Married for 33 years with two daughters, ages 29 and 23. Facilitative. Learner. Innovative. Engaged.



## Sarah Viñas

### Affordable Housing and Community Connections Director

Sarah joined the Town of Chapel Hill 12 years ago. She has served in a variety of roles within the Manager's Office, Public Works, and most recently Affordable Housing and Community Connections, where she current serves as Director. Before joining the Town, Sarah worked in the nonprofit sector for a decade doing community development and anti-poverty work. She served as a Congressional Hunger Fellow in Chicago, IL and Washington, DC, and subsequently Executive Director of two nonprofit organizations in Immokalee, FL and Asheville, NC. Sarah holds a BA in Sociology and Religion with a Minor in Community Building and Social Change from Emory University and an MPA from UNC-Chapel Hill. Sarah has a passion for social justice, equitable community engagement, affordable housing, and Tar Heel basketball. She also enjoys running, speaking Spanish, and traveling with her family.



## Britany Waddell

### Planning Director

Britany has almost 20 years of planning experience in North Carolina, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. She has an extensive background in community engagement and participatory planning, with a focus on town/gown relationships after spending 10 years as the Director of Community Relations for the George Washington University in DC. She has a BA from UNC-Chapel Hill in Ancient/Medieval History, a MA in Liberal Studies from Wake Forest University and a MPS in Urban and Regional Planning from Georgetown University. Britany also holds certifications from the American Institute of Certified Planners and the North Carolina Association of Zoning Officials. She most recently served the City of Raleigh as the Assistant Director of Planning and Development until joining the Town of Chapel Hill in February 2023.