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## **DLBA Names Stephanie El Tawil as New Economic Development & Policy Manager**

**(LONG BEACH, CA – December 22, 2022)** The Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) today announced Stephanie El Tawil as the organization’s new Economic Development & Policy Manager. El Tawil fills a key role previously held by Austin Metoyer who was appointed President and CEO by the DLBA Board in September.

“We are excited to welcome Stephanie to the DLBA family at such a critical time in the recovery of our Downtown,” said Austin Metoyer, DLBA President and CEO. “Her deep experience in building strong working relationships combined with a diverse background in development and an entrepreneurial mindset will benefit our entire business community.”

As Economic Development & Policy Manager, El Tawil will establish working relations with Downtown business and property owners, financial institutions, commercial brokers, developers, and local economic development officials to recruit and retain business and advance Downtown interests. She will play a key role in the implementation of office and retail recruitment strategies, supervise the production of DLBA’s market reports, and oversee DLBA’s new business navigator position to assist small business owners with permitting approvals. Furthermore, she will assist and advise leadership on local, state and federal government public policy matters that may impact the Downtown community.

“I am beyond excited to be a part of such a transformational time for Downtown Long Beach,” said El Tawil. “There is a distinctive energy here that fosters warm hospitality, progressive values, and a collaborative spirit. Like all growing communities, we have some obstacles to overcome, and I look forward to building on DLBA’s strong foundation with stakeholders to tackle these challenges and drive future investment and economic growth.”

El Tawil’s background includes more than eight years of experience in workforce and business development which will be an asset to DLBA stakeholders. Her previous roles included managing career and leadership development programs at the UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management, Director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville, and Project Manager for the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership. She received her MBA and MA from the University of Southern Indiana.

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**About the Downtown Long Beach Alliance:** DLBA is a non-profit, community-based organization whose mission is to cultivate, preserve and promote a healthy, safe, and prosperous Downtown. By balancing the interests of the residents, as well as businesses, the DLBA creates tangible progress by way of vested interest and solidified partnerships across local, municipal, and commercial lines. For additional information, visit [www.downtownlongbeach.org](http://www.downtownlongbeach.org), or follow on Facebook @downtownlongbeach, and on Twitter and Instagram @DLBA.