



Business & Markets

Longtime BRA official named top Hub planner

By Scott Van Voorhis

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There's a new planning czar in Boston.

Kairos Shen, a longtime Boston Redevelopment Authority official, will become the city's new chief planner, helping coordinate long-term planning efforts among various agencies.

He replaces Rebecca Barnes, a former private sector architect who left in 2005 to become chief planner for Brown University. The BRA position pays \$156,000 a year.

One of Shen's new jobs will be helping craft a vision for Boston's economic and development growth for the decades ahead. In drawing up that long-term plan, Shen said he would be following the lead of Mayor Thomas M. Menino, who has talked about trying to encourage growth in targeted industries, such as the life sciences sector.

Shen has taken a leading role in helping shape major Boston projects, from guidelines for development in the Longwood Medical and Academic Area, to the city's new convention center.

Shen's promotion to chief planner won praise from Marc Margulies, a top Boston architect and one-time urban design commissioner for the Boston Society of Architects. "He prompted anyone involved to really try and achieve something special with their projects," Margulies said.