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County Executive-Elect Pittman Announces Senior Staff

Annapolis, MD – Anne Arundel County Executive-Elect Steuart Pittman announced two senior staff appointments for his incoming administration today. Ben Birge will serve as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Jennifer Purcell, PhD will serve as Chief of Staff. Both positions will take effect when Pittman takes the oath of office on Monday, December 3.

“Anne Arundel County deserves the best and I’m pleased to announce two top talents for these critical positions,” said Pittman. “Ben and Jennifer are smart, capable professionals who share my passion for open, transparent government. They are already hard at work for our transition team and can’t wait to get started in their official capacities with Anne Arundel County government.”

The CAO position will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of County government and overseeing County agencies and departments. Ben Birge will bring more than 25 years of government experience to the job.

Birge is currently the manager of Prince George’s CountyStat, where he is responsible for providing analysis and oversight to ensure County services are operating in an efficient, productive, and cost-effective manner. Prior to CountyStat, Birge served as Prince George’s deputy budget director. He has spent his career in the public policy arena at all levels of government with particular focus on budget and program analysis. In addition to his professional experience, Birge is a member of the Citizens Advisory Council for Anne Arundel County and the Anne Arundel County Library Board of Trustees. He has a master’s degree in government and foreign affairs from University of Virginia and lives in Odenton.

The Chief of Staff will be responsible for managing the operations of the County Executive's office and coordinating personnel and initiatives working across departments. Jennifer Purcell has 24 years of program planning and management experience.

Most recently, Purcell was the Interim Executive Director at the Maryland Horse Council and a strategic planning consultant for several nonprofit organizations. Prior to that, she was a faculty member at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Before that she worked in various roles as an administrator or program manager for nonprofit and academic institutions. She has a doctorate in higher education administration from University of South Florida.

“I want to thank the current CAO, Mark Hartzell, and current Chief of Staff, Diane Croghan, for their service to Anne Arundel County,” said Pittman. “Mark and Diane have served the county exceptionally well during their tenure and have gone out of their way to be helpful to our transition team. My team and I are sincerely grateful to them.”

The transition team will announce additional senior staff appointments in the coming weeks, prior to the December 3 Inauguration. The team has also established an email for individuals who wish to become involved with the transition team effort. Anyone who would like to be considered for the team is asked to contact pittmantransition@gmail.com.

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By Authority Friends of Steuart Pittman, Virginia Clagett Treasurer

PittmanForPeople.com

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