

News Release

For Immediate Release Date: Monday, March 14, 2022 Contact: Gabrielle Torina, Communications Specialist Email: gtorina@r1planning.org | Office: 815-319-4457

Cesar Sanchez Joins Region 1 Planning Council Staff

ROCKFORD, IL — Region 1 Planning Council is pleased to welcome Cesar Sanchez to its team as an Economic Development Planner. As Economic Development Planner, Sanchez will develop and maintain relationships that support regional economic development solutions, and work on economic development planning initiatives.

R1 develops economic development strategies and pursues funding to strengthen conditions for economic and community wealth to grow. In partnership with local governments and community entities, we apply for federal and state economic development grants that support infrastructure improvements and job creation. "Cesar has a passion for promoting regional economic vitality. His skillset will combine his deep familiarity of our community with his ability to connect its diverse stakeholders in addressing a wide range of economic development needs. His skills and relationships will help advance our overall effort in planning and developing our future community," explained Michael Dunn. Jr., Executive Director of R1.

Sanchez holds a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Judson University, and has 16 years of retail banking experience. His expertise includes small business development, business banking, financial empowerment, and community economic development. He is member of the Coalition of Latino Leaders and serves on the board of United Way, HomeStart, and the Rockford Public Library. Cesar has been recognized twice by the Rockford Register Star as "75 People You Should Know in the Rock River Valley" and as a "Next Up Leader."

ABOUT R1 - Region 1 Planning Council is a special-purpose, regional government agency providing cross-jurisdictional, government-to-government collaborative planning for Northern Illinois. The regional planning model provides an efficient means to promoting a well-informed, comprehensive dialogue that holistically addresses regional issues by fulfilling the needs of government entities for long-range planning, securing funding, and analyzing and providing data in support of regional projects and initiatives.

For more information, visit <u>www.r1planning.org</u>.

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