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Lake In Brief

Growth director steps down after sharp criticism

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TAVARES

Lake County's director of Growth Management, whose department was sharply criticized for its pro-growth leanings and poor customer service this summer, resigned Tuesday.

Carol Stricklin told her staff she was accepting a job on Florida's west coast.

Stricklin, who did not immediately return a call to her cell phone seeking comment, was hired in November 2005 at an annual salary of \$92,500. She was formerly the assistant community-development director for the city of Largo. She also worked for Orange County and the city of Orlando as a planner.

In correspondence with her staff, she said: "This was a difficult decision for me because I value and greatly enjoy my position here. I am extremely proud to have worked with such a talented and dedicated group of employees."

County officials credit her with helping to develop the public-lands and impact-fee sections of the county's growth-management department, two of the agency's most controversial areas. But in July, county commissioners raised serious concerns about her department, relaying complaints raised by residents and other officials.

Adrian G. Uribarri, Stephen Hudak and Katie Fretland of the Sentinel staff contributed to this report.

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