

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Speak up: Vienna's economic development manager embarks on 'listening tour'

The Town of Vienna's new economic development manager is in the midst of a listening tour designed to solicit feedback, concerns, and bold ideas related to the Town's business community. Natalie Monkou, who joined the Town in November, is holding at least 45 listening tour engagements over the next couple of months with business and community organizations, Councilmembers, Town staff, developers, economic development organizations, and regional partners as well as business representatives.

As part of the tour, Monkou is holding two "pop-up" office hour sessions, open to the public, at Caffe Amouri, 107 Church Street NE. Business representatives and residents are invited to meet with Monkou at one or both of these sessions at 11 am Wednesday, January 15, and 6 pm Thursday, January 23. Pre-registration at <u>bit.ly/tovlisteningtour</u> is strongly encouraged.

"I'm trying to meet EV-ER-Y-BODY," Monkou says, in order to gather data, feedback, and ideas related to Vienna's current business climate, challenges, and areas for opportunity.

"I want to hear from a wide variety of folks on what they think are the needs and challenges of the Town's business community," she adds. "How are businesses doing? What else would people like to see here?"

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