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**Mayor-elect John Carney Announces Additional Senior Leadership Team**

WILMINGTON, DE — Mayor-elect John Carney announced today that Daniel T. Walker, Stephanie L. Mergler and Javier E. Horstmann will join his staff in the Mayor’s Office.

Mayor-elect Carney praised Walker, Mergler and Horstmann: “I’m pleased to announce the appointments of Daniel Walker as Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Communication, Stephanie Mergler as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Javier Horstmann as Director of Special Projects. Each of these individuals brings a wealth of experience, a strong work ethic and a commitment to serving the people of Delaware.”

“Mr. Walker has consistently demonstrated strong leadership and a thoughtful approach to policy and governance as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. I am confident he will continue to play a key role in advancing our priorities for Wilmington,” said Mayor elect Carney.

“Ms. Mergler’s knowledge and experience in city operations will be critical in ensuring a smooth and effective transition for the new administration,” said the Mayor-elect.

“Mr. Horstmann brings his expertise in managing complex projects and his ability to build strong, effective partnerships to his position for the new Mayor. His skills will be invaluable as we work to move our City forward.”

“Together, these three talented young leaders will help strengthen our administration and further our mission of creating a brighter, more prosperous future for Wilmington.”

**Daniel T. Walker** is currently the Deputy Cabinet Secretary for the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services. In this role he leads Delaware's array of social service programs including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy



Families, Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing, and Child Support Services. Daniel also leads the Department's efforts around the Governor's Family Services Cabinet Council with a goal of streamlining state services for targeted impact.

Prior to his appointment, he served as the Chief of Staff for Wilmington City Council where he was the youngest person and first openly LGBTQ+ individual to hold the role. During his tenure, he was influential in reforming the Council's effectiveness in legislative discussions and helped to negotiate the first-ever violence prevention funding in the City's base budget and over \$8 million in public safety initiative funding utilizing American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds.

He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Delaware and holds a Master of Science degree with a concentration in public administration from Wilmington University. Daniel is a native Delawarean and lives in Wilmington with his husband.

**Stephanie Mergler** has served as the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations for two years. Prior to becoming Deputy, she worked as a Best Practices & Innovation Specialist in the Mayor's Office, where she was primarily responsible for managing the Wilmington 311 customer service program, and as a Fiscal & Operations Analyst in the Office of Management & Budget. She began her career in government as an Urban Policy Fellow in City Council.

**Javier E. Horstmann** is a lifelong resident of Wilmington. Javier previously served in various capacities in Governor Carney's office including policy advisor on housing, and Director of Constituent Relations. Javier has also previously worked as the Chief Policy Advisor for the Delaware State Housing Authority. Over the past year, Javier served as the campaign manager for John Carney during the 2024 race for Mayor. Javier holds a B.A. and M.P.A from the University of Delaware. Javier lives in Wilmington with his wife, Christina and dog, Della.

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