



SLAVIC VILLAGE

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Slavic Village Development Appoints Mark William Rantala as New Executive Director

Cleveland, OH — July 1, 2026 — Slavic Village Development (SVD) is proud to announce the appointment of Mark William Rantala as the organization's next Executive Director. He replaces Shauna Sanders who resigned in May, and steps into the role to guide SVD as the organization readies to implement its neighborhood comprehensive plan. With a start date of last Monday, June 22, 2026, Rantala has already spent a full week assessing operations, meeting partners, and engaging with the local community. Rantala joins SVD with over 25 years of commercial real estate experience and over 12 years of economic development experience.

Rantala began his commercial real estate career in CBRE's Cleveland office, where he led the Retail Practice Group and represented shopping centers, developers, and retail tenants across Northeast Ohio as a First Vice President. During his tenure, he authored the annual CBRE Retail Market Report, achieved "Top 5" status six times, and earned the CBRE Tradition of Excellence Award alongside the national Larry Perrish Leadership Award.

His Economic Development career started as Director of the Nederland, Texas EDC. He was the Executive Director of the Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority for eight years serving as Lake County's Economic Development Department and providing support to 230,000 residents of Lake County and the 23 Cities, Villages and Townships in Lake County.

Dartanian Warr, President of the SVD Board of Directors, expressed his support: "Mark brings an unparalleled list of accomplishments from his time as the Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Authority Executive Director. From developing new housing, reimagining 1950s vintage bungalows, to building the Miracle baseball field to benefit disabled youth—Mark has been a difference maker."

"Slavic Village is a neighborhood with incredible grit, history, and untapped potential," said Rantala. "My career has focused on turning real estate challenges into economic opportunities, and I look forward to applying that experience here. Together with our residents, businesses, and partners, we will accelerate economic development, strengthen our commercial corridors, and build an even more vibrant, equitable community. Succeed in Slavic Village!"