



March 3, 2020

Fontana Native Assisting to Keep the City's Finances on Track



Fontana, Calif.- A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure Fontana maintains its standing as a financially strong City. As Accounting Manager, Fontana native Jennifer Thompson assists with keeping all of the City's finances on track.

In her position, Jennifer oversees Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, General Ledger, and Special District Accounting for the City. "Myself and my team are what I like to refer to as Guardians of the General Ledger; our responsibility is to guard the City's finances," explains Jennifer.

Jennifer and her team review, analyze, approve, and ensure compliance with accounting principles, laws, regulations, City policies, and granting agencies. She is also responsible for handling all financial report submissions to external agencies and managing the City's audits. She has a knack for problem-solving and is a natural leader, continuously inspiring and motivating her team members along the way.

Although she has only been with the City for six months, Jennifer has transformed the Accounting Division. "Jennifer has been a great addition to the City. She brought with her a fresh pair of eyes and opened new opportunities for her staff to take on more roles with vendors. She's truly an all-around great person," shares a coworker.

Jennifer hit the ground running from day one in her new position. Her first task? Overseeing one of the largest projects in the Department of Management Services: the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This extensive report is comprised of the City's financial statements and provides an accurate, in-depth view of the City's financial state. The report was presented and approved by the City Council in January, bringing to a close her and her team's hard work on their first project together.

"I have the most amazing and brilliant team and it's an honor to be able to serve and guide my team. It's incredible to get to see how projects and plans come to fruition to benefit the residents of Fontana," shares Jennifer.

There hasn't been a "typical" day for Jennifer since she began working for Fontana. One day she may be working on a financial analysis for a project and the next she may be working on submission of a financial report to an external entity.

In a new job in a new workplace, it's easy for a new employee to be a bundle of nerves. However, Jennifer offers the following advice: "Never be afraid to ask questions. When you're new it's easy to be intimidated by others that know more than you, but learning comes best through the questioning process. Being a person that loves knowledge truly helps in every aspect of life and the curiosity to learn and grow is what makes a good employee, a great employee."

She was born and raised in Fontana, and after spending approximately 10 years away decided to return and settle in Fontana with her family, many of which also live within the City limits. "Fontana will always be my hometown so working for the City has been a natural transition and an honor to serve its residents," states Jennifer.

The best advice she has ever received is to always strive to extend grace, dignity and respect to others. Outside of work, you can find Jennifer hiking in our local mountains. She also enjoys completing house projects and spending time with her husband and their beagle.

Jennifer has been selected as the City of Fontana Employee Spotlight based on nominations from her peers who describe her as someone who "goes above and beyond in everything she does. She's incredibly thoughtful and personable."

Please join us in congratulating the City of Fontana's Employee Spotlight recipient for the month of March, Jennifer Thompson.