

ROBERT STURNS, EDFP

Director, Economic Development

City of Fort Worth

Robert Sturns has more than 20 years' experience holding leadership roles in municipal government, commercial real estate and banking operations, with over 15 years' experience negotiating terms and structuring deals for economic and community development programs in Texas. As a certified Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP), Mr. Sturns has received numerous awards and accolades for creative and successful business recruitment/retention efforts. By leveraging partnerships with public and private entities, he has been directly engaged in the announcement of over \$2.2 billion in new capital investment, 14.0 million SF of commercial development and 16,500 jobs. The Dallas Business Journal has recognized a total of 16 projects that he has been involved with as finalists for "Best Real Estate Deal of the Year" with 4 of those projects winning their respective category. Mr. Sturns has also held positions with the City of Arlington, Bank One and as General Manager for Town Mall Ltd., where he was responsible for a real estate portfolio consisting of 1.1 million square feet of retail and office space.

In his current role, he is responsible for the economic development initiatives for the City of Fort Worth, including Business Attraction & Retention, the Office of Business Diversity and the Business Assistance Center, which is comprised of nine service providers that supply business start-up counseling, business plan development and SBA 504 loan assistance.

Mr. Sturns is past President of the Greater Fort Worth Area Economic Development Association and current Board member of the Multicultural Alliance, Cristo Rey Fort Worth and Ex-Officio Board Member for Fort Worth South Inc. and Fort Worth Sister Cities International. Previous board memberships include Van Zandt Southwest YMCA, McDonald YMCA, Fort Worth Economic Development Corporation, Red Cross DFW, William Mann Community Development Corporation and Cancer Care Services. He is currently a member of the Texas Economic Development Council, International Council of Shopping Centers, National Business Incubator Association, Rotary Club, and Leadership Fort Worth.

Mr. Sturns received a commission as an Officer in the United States Army Reserve where he served for 10 years and reached the rank of Captain. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Texas Christian University and a Bachelor of Arts from Stephen F. Austin State University.