Mary Buckley was appointed to the newly-created position of Director of Business Development by Mayor Hickenlooper on December 2, 2003. Buckley's experience as both a local small business owner and a corporate manager has been a great asset in her most recent role as the Deputy City Manager of Centennial. She established initial infrastructure and developed administrative policies and procedures for Colorado's newest incorporated suburban city.

Previously, Buckley held economic development-related appointments in three state governments: Manager of the Economic Development Division for former Texas Comptroller John Sharp; Director of Planning for former Mississippi Governor Ray Maybus; and Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment for former Colorado Governor Dick Lamm.

Buckley has considerable private sector experience as well. She owned and founded MGB Strategies, a Denver-based public affairs consulting firm; served as Regional Manager of Regulatory Affairs for the Denver-based Jato Communications Corporation, worked as a government relations consultant for Brownstein, Hyatt & Farber, PC, and served as Manager of Legislative Affairs for the MCI Telecommunications Corporation. Additionally, Buckley owns a local small business, Villa Nolasco USA, which imports handmade soaps that help to support an orphanage in Mexico.

Buckley has served as a member of the Colorado State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education, the Colorado Child Care Commission, and as a board member and treasurer for the Five Points Media Center.

She received her bachelor's degree in English from Colorado State University.
The Denver Mayor's Office of Economic Development supports both recruitment and retention efforts. The Business Assistance Center (BAC) is dedicated to supporting Denver’s small businesses by helping businesses complete government forms and comply with city, state and federal regulations. A team of 30 specialists with years of City experience have been designated as Concierges with the purpose of aiding in interactions with government agencies. During business hours, members of the team are prepared to act as a liaison for companies encountering difficulties with City processes, or new companies requiring additional assistance.

Denver’s Small Business Lending initiative offers a variety of programs and services to companies keep their competitive edge. Resources are available on economic and demographic data, small business loans and financial assistance, job training and recruitment, site relocation, Enterprise Zone tax credits, and a variety of other local business topics.

The new Division of Small Business Opportunity (DSBO) ensures opportunities for Small (SBE) and Disadvantaged (DBE) businesses to participate in the City's construction, professional service and procurement process. The agency has two departments, certification and compliance, each with specific duties. The certification department is located downtown and processes applications for firms to be listed in the directories made available monthly to contractors or consultants bidding on federal-funded or city projects. The compliance department is located downtown and at DIA to monitor city contracts according to local or federal regulations.

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