



Ron Frierson

***Director of Economic Development, Western U.S.
Amazon***

Ron Frierson serves as Director of Economic Development of the Western U.S. at Amazon. In his role, Ron leads the team that supports and champions Amazon investment projects across various Amazon business lines in areas of market-entry, strategy, site selection, entitlements, operations and partnerships in Washington, Alaska, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Hawaii. Before joining Amazon, Ron served as Director of Economic Policy for former Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. Ron led the Business Team for the Mayor's Office, which developed business policy affecting the world's 3rd largest metropolitan economy. The Business Team's portfolio included Commercial Real Estate Development, Technology, Sports & Entertainment, Manufacturing, Taxation, Healthcare, and Tourism & Hospitality. Ron also oversaw the Convention & Tourism Department, Department of Cannabis Regulation and the Economic Workforce & Development Department policy on behalf of the Mayor's Office.

Significant projects with Garcetti include Gucci's 100-year anniversary, COVID-19 microloan program, the L.A. Regional COVID Relief Fund, Covid-19 vaccine logistics/strategy, and film studio capacity strategy, among others. Ron's team was instrumental in developing and implementing programs to help the Los Angeles economy stabilize and recover from damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ron's career spans over 20 years of service in both the private and public sectors, consisting of domestic and international corporate site selection, management consulting, real estate brokerage, labor analytics, supply chain analysis, discretionary business incentive negotiation & procurement, media, economic development, and international professional athletics.

Before joining the Mayor's Office, Ron was Director of National Incentives at NAI Capital - Tenant Consulting Group in Los Angeles and served as Vice President at CBRE – Labor Analytics in Phoenix, where his team specialized in corporate site selection, labor analytics, and incentives negotiation throughout the United States and Canada. Ron began his career with the Kansas Department of Commerce, as Manager of West Coast Business Development under former Governor(s) Bill Graves, Kathleen Sebelius and Sam Brownback.

Ron serves on several boards, including Urban Land Institute-LA, International Economic Development Council, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, and Chairman of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation Board of Governors. Ron is a former professional athlete - briefly playing professional basketball in Australia and France. He attended graduate school at Baker University in Kansas and graduated from Emporia State University in Kansas with a B.A. Social Science on a full athletic scholarship. He remains engaged with his alma mater serving on the Board of Trustees, and the Dean's Advisory Council at the Cremer School of Business. In 2020, his alma mater honored him with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Ron lives in Los Angeles with his family and is a proud native of Saginaw, Michigan.