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International Economic Development Council Elects Tracey Nichols as New Board Member for Two-Year Term

CLEVELAND – The Board of Directors of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) has elected Tracey Nichols, Director of Economic Development for the City of Cleveland to its Board of Directors for a two-year term. The appointment was announced at the IEDC's 2015 Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

“It is a great honor to be selected to serve on the International Economic Development Council Board of Directors,” said Tracey Nichols. “I look forward to voicing issues and concerns that are important to cities like Cleveland to an international audience and I am excited that Cleveland will be hosting the annual conference next year, which will give us an opportunity to showcase our many accomplishments.”

“As the world's leading membership organization for professionals in the field of economic development, IEDC's work has become vital to the global economy,” said IEDC Chair-elect Barry Matherly, CEcD, FM, president and CEO of Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc. “It is an honor to serve on the Board and I look forward to working with Tracey Nichols and the other members to provide leadership and service to IEDC. We will continue to move forward in fulfilling IEDC's goal of delivering quality information, education and outstanding development opportunities to its members.”

Tracey Nichols joined the City of Cleveland in February 2008, after serving for 17 years at Cuyahoga County, where she was the assistant director of Economic Development for her last four years.

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Since joining the City, Nichols has led her team to complete over 560 projects that will create over 11,800 new jobs and retain over 8,000. Her efforts have resulted in \$146.8 million in new grants or pass-through loan funding. Her team has been recognized for innovative projects both locally and nationally with awards from Inside Business, Housing and Urban Development, IEDC and the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer. She has been invited to speak at national conferences including the Clinton Global Initiative, National League of Cities, National Brownfields Conference, IEDC and the Initiative for Competitive Inner Cities Conference.

Nichols is well known for creating new, innovative programs, such as the Vacant Property Initiative, which has resulted in over 2.6 million square feet of space in vacant buildings and 85 acres of vacant land being returned to productive use, creating and retaining over 5,900 jobs.

Nichols has a degree in business management, concentrating in accounting and finance, from Case Western Reserve University and has the National Development Council's certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional. In 2010, she was presented with the Cleveland Foundation's Homer Wadsworth Award for excellence in public service. As a member of Mayor Frank Jackson's cabinet, she continues to work on the City's cluster based and place based economic development strategies to bring new investment and jobs to the City of Cleveland.