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PRESS RELEASE

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CDFA Appoints Mark Barbash as Senior Strategic Advisor

Columbus, OH – The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is excited to announce the appointment of Mark Barbash as a Senior Strategic Advisor. Mr. Barbash will provide thought leadership to CDFA’s various education, advocacy, research, resource and networking initiatives.

Barbash is a 30-year veteran of the economic development finance industry having served in the public sector at the local, state and federal levels, and in the private sector focusing on real estate and business development and development financing. In his career, he has had senior level policy and management responsibilities, served in national association leadership positions, created new development programs, as well as working “on the ground” to move projects forward to completion.

“CDFA is honored to have Mark Barbash, a respected and talented member of the development finance industry, join our team today. Mark will bring his experience, enthusiasm and vast network with him to CDFA to contribute to our ongoing development and growth,” said Toby Rittner, CDFA President & CEO.

In his new role at CDFA, Mark will work on a variety of projects including improving CDFA’s training courses, assisting with state program development, leading technical assistance projects, exploring development finance trends, directing special initiatives and building new programming.

In his career, Mark has provided project financing, strategic planning, keynoting and training services to a wide variety of groups and industry associations. Prior to joining CDFA, Mark served as Executive Vice President of Finance Fund, a nonprofit organization that provided financing for community development projects through a number of programs.

Prior to 2011, Mark served as Chief Economic Development Officer for the Ohio Department of Development, where he was responsible for strategic initiatives, day to day management of the department. In this role, he served as the chief state negotiator for major state economic development incentives. Previously, Mark was Director of Development for Columbus, Ohio under Mayor Michael B. Coleman. In this position, he managed the 200 person department, which included economic development financing and incentives, neighborhood and code enforcement, building services, planning, historic preservation and housing.

Prior to 2000, Mark served as Executive Director of Community Capital Development Corporation (CCDC), Vice President of Miller and Schroeder Investment Banking, Deputy Director for Business Financing for the Ohio Department of Development, and Vice President for the National Development Council.

Mark Barbash has served actively on the Boards of many organizations including the Ohio Economic Development Association, Community Research Partners, The CATCO Equity Theater Company and the Parsons Avenue Redevelopment Corporation. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Mark can be reached at mbarbash@cdfa.net.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation’s leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private and non-profit entities alike. For more information about CDFA, visit www.cdfa.net.