



December 2, 2021
PRESS RELEASE

Council of Development Finance Agencies
100 East Broad Street, Suite 1200
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-705-1300
www.cdfa.net

CONTACT:
Toby Rittner
President & CEO
trittner@cdfa.net

CDFA Recognizes Shirlynn Fortson, DFCP

—Newest Graduate of the Prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program —

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is pleased to announce Shirlynn Fortson, Economic Development Director for the City of Brookhaven in Georgia, as the newest graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program. As a new graduate, Mrs. Fortson joins the ranks of fellow graduates who are recognized as the most qualified leaders in the development finance industry.

“The CDFA team is happy to welcome Shirlynn into the ranks of DFCP graduates. She is a great ambassador of the DFCP program and embodies the best and brightest in the development finance industry,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA.

Shirlynn Fortson serves as the Director of Economic Development for the City of Brookhaven in Georgia. In this role, she works to increase Brookhaven’s visibility in the corporate, small business, retail, development, and real estate worlds as an ideal location to do business. Her responsibilities include marketing, site location assistance to new and expanding companies, business retention, serving as a liaison between the State, County, and utility partners, and managing the City’s Incentives Program via her role as Executive Director of Brookhaven’s Development Authority.

Prior to her appointment as Brookhaven’s Director of Economic Development, Mrs. Fortson served as a Statewide Project Manager on the Corporate Solutions team at the Georgia Department of Economic Development. In that role, she recruited new industry on behalf of the State, generating hundreds of jobs and millions in investment for Georgia. Fortson also managed the relocation and expansion of various high-profile companies, notably HD Supply, Equifax, Stanley Black and Decker, and Courion.

Mrs. Fortson received her Master’s degree in Strategic Communications from Troy University and her Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from the University of Georgia. She also holds a real estate license. An active member in the Atlanta community, she is involved with several initiatives around the state including the Atlanta Chapter of Urban Land Institute, the Atlanta BeltLine Young Leadership Council, Leadership DeKalb class of 2018, the Liberian Consulate of Georgia, and a host of other organizations.

CDFA’s Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program is an intense training course learning experience and is the industry’s only comprehensive development finance professional certification program. The DFCP Program is designed to produce graduates with a comprehensive knowledge of development finance concepts, tools, and applicability as well as a deep understanding of the entire development finance spectrum. Graduates of the DFCP Program gain valuable knowledge and experience within the complex development finance industry and achieve a level of understanding unmatched by any other professional certification program.

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.

CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation

###