

Media Release

March 9, 2009

PDC Announces Reorganization

Portland Development Commission (PDC) Urban Development Department Director Erin Flynn announced that work has been completed on a reorganization of PDC's operating departments. This action was taken to improve collaboration, efficiency and ultimately, service to Portland citizens.

"One of the main goals of this reorganization is to better position PDC to identify and meet the economic development needs of the City of Portland," said Flynn. "Moving forward, PDC will integrate a focus on job creation into every aspect of our work. This is the beginning of a new era at PDC. There is still a lot of work to do, but I am very pleased we have reached this point."

The reorganization transitions PDC from having functionally-based operating departments to three teams under the umbrella of the Urban Development Department, which will report to Flynn. The new teams are:

- **Central City Team** (all of downtown and the Central Eastside), led by Lew Bowers. Bowers is a seven-year veteran of PDC and has worked on real estate development in both the public and private sectors for 25 years.
- **Neighborhood Team** (encompassing north, northeast and southeast Portland), led by Byron Estes. Estes has worked at PDC for three years. He has more than 20 years experience working in neighborhood revitalization, transit-oriented development, development ethics and urban policy.
- **Business and Industry Team** (will focus on PDC's target industries), led by Peter Cunningham. Cunningham is new to PDC and Portland. Prior to joining PDC, he served as Deputy Commissioner for the New York State Department of Economic Development. He has 25 years experience working on economic development, trade and foreign investment projects.

"The new Urban Development Department will allow us to deliver more integrated products to our stakeholders in a more efficient manner," said PDC Executive Director Bruce Warner. "At the same time, we are able to empower staff in the decision-making process and allow for more cooperation across teams."

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PDC was created by Portland voters in 1958 to serve as the city's urban renewal agency as laid out in Chapter 15 of the City's Charter. PDC provides comprehensive housing, development and economic development programs within the Portland region.

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