Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Appoints Mark Huey to Executive Post
4/21/2011

The Board of Directors of the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County (EDC) today appointed Mark Huey, economic and urban development administrator for the City of Tampa, to serve as the EDC’s president and CEO following Kathy Baylis’ retirement in June. Huey will begin in the post on June 27.

The EDC’s five-month national search for a new executive was highly competitive, garnering 80 inquiries that were narrowed to five finalists, according to EDC Vice Chair Benjamin Hanan. Huey’s combination of skills, experience and regional knowledge impressed the EDC leadership.

“Mark is a consummate economic development professional with a proven track record. His familiarity with Sarasota County as part of the Tampa Bay region will be an asset, allowing him to hit the ground running and maintain vital regional partnerships on the EDC’s behalf,” Hanan said.

“I am thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to serve the businesses and residents of Sarasota County as president and CEO of the EDC of Sarasota County,” Huey said. “I look forward to joining the outstanding team of leaders from across the community who are working hard to diversify and grow the local economy. Together, I know we can build an even more vibrant business climate and expand job opportunities for Sarasota County residents.”

In his current post, which he has held since 2003, Huey has been primarily responsible for community redevelopment and job recruitment and retention. At various times he has also overseen the convention center, affordable housing, land use and zoning, permitting, real estate, historic preservation, small business/minority business development, and the arts.

Huey led all major relocation and expansion incentive agreements relating to jobs and capital investment including Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation, M2GEN (Moffitt Cancer Center/ Merck Pharmaceutical joint venture), IKEA, and University of South Florida Project CAMLS (robotic surgery and healthcare professional training center).

Huey was lead negotiator for public-private partnerships, including The Heights, a planned $500-million mixed-use redevelopment, and Encore, a $500-million mixed-use redevelopment under construction. He led the city’s efforts to bring
residential to the urban downtown, resulting in more than 3,200 residential units exceeding $1 billion in private investment. He also coordinated seven community redevelopment areas -- more than any other municipality in Florida -- including Downtown, Channel District, Ybor City, East Tampa, Central Park, The Heights and Drew Park. Peak total annual tax increment financing budgets totaled $31 million with 18 staff.

Huey represented the city in creating the Tampa/Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation and led the city’s economic development strategic planning efforts with that organization and the Tampa Bay Partnership. Huey also developed diverse redevelopment programs including incentives, infrastructure improvements, public park development, clean teams, code enforcement, adult use enforcement, facade improvement programs, historic preservation initiatives, marketing and more.

In the international trade arena, Huey participated in a trade mission to Mexico, led planning for two missions to Panama and Canada, is a founding member of the Tampa/ Hillsborough International Protocol Office, and serves on the mayor’s Global Business Development Committee.

Previously, Huey was chief operating officer at Metropolitan Ministries and chief financial officer at the Tampa Housing Authority. He helped guide both organizations through significant expansion. His prior experience was in commercial real estate development with The Wilson Co. of Tampa and as an assistant production manager at General Mills in Minneapolis. Huey has an MBA from the Wharton School of Business and a BA in accounting from the University of Florida. He is a Certified Public Accountant. Huey is 53 years old, is married and has four children.

The EDC of Sarasota County is the private, not-for-profit corporation leading the community’s economic development strategy to add high-wage jobs and diversify the local economy. The EDC provides business assistance to companies in Sarasota County and helps forge solutions to community challenges that affect quality of life. The EDC works in partnership with chambers of commerce, local governments and other organizations throughout the county and the region. For more information, visit www.edcsarasotacounty.com.