



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Development Agency Chief Departs**

*Montgomery, Illinois – May 14, 2009* – The agency responsible for seeking to attract and retain businesses for the Village of Montgomery is once again without a chief executive. Yesterday, Wednesday, was Amy Furfori's last day on the job as Executive Director for the Montgomery Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). A former planner and community development director for the Village, Furfori had worked for the MEDC since April 2008.

In a statement e-mailed to MEDC members Monday, Furfori announced she is leaving the agency because her family is moving out of state. "I have enjoyed working with each of you and wish you the best. As always, we appreciate your support of a need for an economic development advocate in Montgomery," she said.

Denny Lee, a Village Board member and member of the MEDC's Board of Directors, said he and other agency officials are sorry Furfori is leaving. "Amy has done a great job," Lee said, adding, "She did everything we expected since the first day. The only reason she's leaving is that her husband has taken a job in Alabama." Lee said Furfori's prior experience as the Village's community development director proved an asset to her in the job. "I think our Board learned that we need someone in the job who knows development and who knows the developers, rather than strictly a chamber of commerce-type person that deals only on the business side," he said.

Lee said the MEDC Board plans to advertise for the vacant position. He noted the agency will not hire an executive search firm due to budget constraints. He said the MEDC has lost some dues-paying member businesses over the past year as a result of the economic downturn. However, Lee noted the poor economy may have an upside for the agency. "We may find that we have more qualified applicants this time around because there are people who have been involved in development that have lost their jobs and are out there now looking," he said.

Furfori was the third person to serve as Executive Director of the MEDC since the Village Board established the agency with support from local businesses in 2004. Teresa Nortillo, the agency's first Executive Director served from April 2004 to June 2005. She was followed by James Allen who served from September 2005 until November 2007. The MEDC is funded through an annual contribution from the Village and area businesses.

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