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THOMAS W. THIELMAN RECEIVES CERTIFICATION FROM THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEACO Executive Completes Intensive “The Art of Deal Structuring” Program

Mentor, OH – March 1, 2006 – Thomas Thielman, Executive Director of Mentor Economic Assistance Corporation (MEACO), a certified development corporation and part of the City Of Mentor’s Economic Development Program, has received certification as a Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) from the National Development Council (NDC.) Certification is a designation give to individuals who successfully complete an intensive economic development finance training series that is conducted by NDC. The courses provide individuals working in the field of economic development with training in credit analysis, real estate financing, loan packaging deal structuring, and negotiating and the creation and implementation of development programs.

Each of the four courses are five days in length and end with a written review that must be passed before a certification candidate is allowed to continue in the EDFP program. When a candidate has completed the entire four-week series, a comprehensive examination is given.

The New York based National Development Council was established in 1972 and is a private non-profit corporation which specializes in economic/housing development training and technical assistance or economic/housing development. NDC has provided training to approximately 50,000 development people working in the field of economic and housing development. Participants come from many diverse groups: city and state governments, public agencies, community-based organizations, professional organizations, bankers, etc.

Mr. Thielman is a seasoned economic development veteran with extensive experience. Prior to joining MEACO, he served as Director of Economic Development for the City of Wickliffe and Business Development Officer for the City of Parma. Mr. Thielman participates in numerous civic and business organizations including The Rotary Club of Wickliffe, Urban Land Institute, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Ohio Development Association.

MEACO provides economic development financing programs, such as the Mentor Small Business Loan Fund and the SBA 504 Loan Program to stimulate and encourage business growth. By working with banks, businesses, and the City of Mentor, MEACO helps small businesses get loans for machinery and equipment, building improvements, office equipment, and fixtures. Through MEACO, small businesses may obtain financing at fixed, below-market rates.

For more than 21 years, MEACO has helped new and existing local businesses obtain long-term, low-interest loans for building construction, expansion or new equipment purchases. Working directly with small businesses and their banks to get prompt financing, MEACO also provides valuable assistance to applicants throughout the paperwork process. MEACO has helped finance projects for small and medium-sized businesses throughout Mentor, and has resulted in the creation or retention of more than 1,300 jobs within the city. Visit the MEACO web site at meaco@cityofmentor.com. or contact Thomas Thielman at 440-974-5739 for more information.

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Photo Caption:

Thomas Thielman, Executive Director of MEACO, recently received certification from The National Development Council for its "The Art of Deal Structuring" program.

Editor Note:

Mr. Thielman is available for commentary. Please contact Tom Mitchell, 216-219-5645 (cell) to schedule an interview.