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THOMAS W. THIELMAN NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MENTOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CORP (MEACO)

Executive Brings More Than 10 Years of Economic Development Experience

Mentor, OH – September 13, 2005 – Mentor Economic Assistance Corporation (MEACO), a certified development corporation and part of the City Of Mentor's Economic Development Program, has named Thomas W. Thielman as its new Executive Director.

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.

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.

"My role within MEACO is to further facilitate strong relationships between area small businesses and the financial community," stated Mr. Thielman. "I look forward to helping finance growth and expansion initiatives for area small businesses, thus building a strong economic base and increased employment opportunities for our community," he concluded.

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 has been named Executive Director of Mentor Economic Assistance Corporation, (MEACO)

Editor Note:

Mr. Thielman is available for commentary. Please contact Tom Mitchell, Marshfield Group, 440-974-8448 or 216-219-5645 (cell) to schedule an interview.