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News Release

Illinois Housing Development Authority Board Appoints Governor's Former Director of Public Safety DeShana Forney as Executive Director

Forney to utilize extensive legislative and policy making experience;

Will oversee implementation of State's efforts to expand affordable housing investment as outlined in 2006 Comprehensive Housing Planning Act

CHICAGO – The Board of Directors of the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) today appointed DeShana Forney as Executive Director. Forney, who served as Director of Public Safety for Governor Rod R. Blagojevich since 2005, will lead the State's efforts to finance the creation and preservation of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents in Illinois. She succeeds Kelly King Dibble, who leaves IHDA to return to the private sector.

"IHDA has done a remarkable job in recent years enhancing the coordination of housing resources so that more and more hardworking Illinois families than ever have an affordable – and quality – place to live. I believe a home can be within the financial reach of all Illinois families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, regardless of their income," said Forney. "I am extremely proud to join the very capable team at IHDA and look forward to helping the agency fulfill the Governor's vision for affordable housing."

As the Director of Public Safety, Forney oversaw Illinois Department of Corrections, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Illinois State Police, Illinois Criminal Justice Informational Authority, Prisoner Review Board and Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. In this position Forney was responsible for budgetary, operational, legislative and policy objectives and combined budgets of nearly \$2 billion as well as more than 17,000 employees. Among her accomplishments was overseeing the creation of the new Department of Juvenile Justice.

Forney also served as the liaison between the Governor and the Illinois House of Representatives. Prior to this Forney served on the Issues Development Staff for House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, the Deputy Director for the Democratic Party of Illinois and Coordinator for the Illinois Delegation at the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, California.

Forney holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Howard University in Washington, DC and a Masters of Arts degree in Political Studies from University of Illinois-Springfield. She is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Treasurer of Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership and is a member of numerous civic and church organizations.

IHDA (www.ihda.org) is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and the preservation of affordable housing across Illinois. Since its creation in 1967, IHDA has allocated more than \$7.27 billion and financed more than 174,000 units of affordable housing across the State. IHDA accomplishes its mission through a number of federal and state funding sources including the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credits Fund, the allocation of federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and HOME Investment Partnership funds. IHDA is also a bonding authority, and independently sells bonds, based on its own good credit, to finance affordable housing across Illinois.