

# North Omaha

Development Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Ed Cochran Appointed North Omaha Development Project Executive Director

**Omaha, Neb., Jan. 7, 2008** - The executive committee of the North Omaha Development Project (NODP) today announced the appointment of Ed Cochran as the organization's first executive director. He will assume his new responsibilities effective Jan. 21.

As executive director, Cochran will work with the 55-member NODP steering committee to oversee implementation of the organization's master plan, recently approved by the City of Omaha Planning Board. He will coordinate the priorities identified in the strategic action plan including community, business and economic development, infrastructure improvements, housing initiatives and neighborhood development.

A year-long study focused on four development opportunity areas north of downtown Omaha from Cuming Street on the south, 16<sup>th</sup> Street on the east, 52<sup>nd</sup> Street on the west and Sorensen Parkway on the north. The areas are 24<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, 30<sup>th</sup> and Ames Street/Metro South, Adams Park and 16<sup>th</sup> and Cuming West.

"We are pleased to have Ed join us as the executive director of this important project for Omaha," said Michael Green, co-chairman of the executive committee. "He brings the business expertise and experience that will be important to our long-term success on the project in the community."

Co-chairman Dennis O'Neal said, "Ed will be an invaluable asset as we continue our efforts to attract business investments to North Omaha. We look forward to his leadership as we build upon the economic rebirth already taking place."

Cochran will coordinate subcommittee work in the areas of transportation, finance, communications, housing, business development, workforce development and capacity building. In addition, he will serve as the primary contact and direct activities with various City of Omaha agencies including the Mayor's Office, Planning Department and Public Works. Cochran's office will be at the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber is committed to the successful implementation of this project plan in full partnership with the community. The Chamber provides financial, staff, and economic and community development resources, in addition to the financial support provided by the investors in the North Omaha Development Project.

"The implementation of this plan is a community development priority for the Chamber and the city. With the enthusiasm we've seen from the community and potential business investors, we look forward to the leadership Ed will provide," said David G. Brown, president and CEO of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

"I am excited to be a part of this dynamic public-private collaboration and committed to build upon the momentum driving the revitalization already taking place throughout North Omaha," Cochran said. "I look forward to opportunities to capitalize on the growth experienced by the rest of the city."

Cochran is currently director of philanthropy at Creighton University. A long time Omaha resident, he previously held senior management positions with First Data, Sitel and he ran his own technology consulting company. Cochran was also formerly executive director of the Urban League of Nebraska.

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He holds an MBA from DePaul University in Chicago and BA from Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Ill.

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*The North Omaha Development Project is a commitment of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, African American business leaders, the North Omaha community, corporate leaders and elected officials to develop a strategy that would result in significant business investments in North Omaha. The North Omaha Development Project plan is the culmination of a year-long study process.*

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