



Port of Greater Cincinnati  
Development Authority

### **Melissa Johnson Gabbard – Director of Brownfield Development**

As the recent Economic Development Administrator, City of Hamilton, Ohio, Ms. Gabbard managed business and industrial development projects resulting in an estimated \$78 million in new development, and the creation and retention of over 1,600 jobs. Ms. Gabbard managed budgets for \$10 million in brownfield redevelopment grant funds from federal and state sources. Additionally, she administered Clean Ohio Fund projects that integrated multi-levels of government funding while fostering public-private partnerships.

Ms. Gabbard supervised several redevelopment projects including the demolition and remediation of over 1 million square feet of commercial and industrial properties. She has collaborated with area developers and community-based groups on riverfront development and renewal projects including the construction of a public amphitheatre park and mixed-use residential/retail plan.

Ms. Gabbard directed proactive business efforts, as well as targeted industry attraction efforts that included domestic and international investment missions, representation at site selection consulting forums, development of available property database, and prospect leads management.

Through corporate real estate networks and relationships, Ms. Gabbard implemented regional visibility strategies and has successfully negotiated financial assistance packages for projects including utility incentives and public infrastructure funding. Additionally, Ms. Gabbard has managed advertising, marketing and branding program that developed print, radio and television ads including taglines and copy writing.

Ms. Gabbard has comprehensive knowledge of federal, state and local assistance programs including enterprise zone tax abatements and tax increment financing.

Ms. Gabbard holds a B.A. in Urban & Regional Planning and Geography from Miami University.