



For Immediate Release
June 16, 2016

Contacts:

Eric H. Kearney
African American Chamber
513-751-9900

Laura Brunner
Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority
513-621-3000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERS ESTABLISH QUARTERLY REAL ESTATE FORUM

African American Chamber launching membership program to increase business leads with the
Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority

CINCINNATI, OH – The African American Chamber is pleased to announce it is creating a lead-sharing membership benefit that directly ties into the Port Authority’s expanding role in real estate development throughout Hamilton County.

As the Port Authority accelerates its pace of predevelopment, site development, renovation and new construction to revitalize neighborhoods and create job-ready development sites, it is expanding its supplier, investor and partnership networks within the region.

African American Chamber President & CEO Eric H. Kearney said the two organizations have forged a plan to boost discussion and engagement that is productive for both.

“We are building a lead-sharing and referral benefit for our members through regular engagement with the Port Authority’s real estate team,” Kearney said. “This couldn’t come together at a better time for our organizations. The Port Authority is intent on driving inclusion and innovation throughout all levels of development – from supplying services to contracting to equity ownership. And, AAC members are civic minded as well as business minded – they want a major stake in rebuilding local communities.”

Laura Brunner, Port Authority President & CEO, said the Port Authority's team will deliver commercial and residential project information early enough and in a way that AAC members can build organizational strength or partner to participate. She said the Port Authority is especially focused on creating participation models in investment, development, construction, and tenant identification.

"Next year, we will have hundreds of acres in stages of redevelopment and dozens of residential projects. We can turn information into participation through regular, meaningful conversation." She cited an example of landbanking – "we want to share what we have learned about landbanking as a redevelopment tool and how it improves a neighborhood's ability to determine its future." The Port Authority manages the Hamilton County Land Reutilization Corporation (LandBank).

Brunner said the Port Authority and African American Chamber have worked collaboratively for years, and the two CEOs have known each other "since we both were inducted into the first Forty Under 40 class together."

Kearney is a former Ohio Senator and, prior to his political career, was an early Port Authority board member who helped shape the Port's present-day award-winning economic inclusion policy. "I was honored to serve during the Port Authority's formative years in the early 2000s, and am excited to create a program to expand AAC member access to a large-scale development platform." He said the first Quarterly Real Estate Forum will be scheduled for Fall 2016.

About the African American Chamber

The African American Chamber's mission is to establish, cultivate, and strengthen consumer and business relationships; provide access to major corporate markets for its members to help increase business opportunities; and assist in developing strategic partnerships and alliances for the purpose of strengthening and growing the business community. To learn more visit, www.african-americanchamber.com and engage in the conversation via the African American Chamber's social media channels @AACChamber on Twitter and AfricanAmericanChamber on Facebook.

About the Port Authority:

The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority was formed in 2000 to stimulate growth of the regional economy. The Port Authority is an economic development force, partnering with the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, focusing on reutilization and redevelopment of property through catalytic investment. To learn more, please visit www.cincinnatiport.org or engage via @PGCDA on Twitter.