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Contact:

Austin Shafran (ESD) | ashafran@empire.state.ny.us | (800) 260-7313 | (646) 761-1705

**PRESIDENT OF EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT KENNETH ADAMS ANNOUNCES
MEMBERSHIP OF STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

***Members Will Review and Assess Strategic Plans Submitted By Ten Regional Economic
Development Councils***

President, CEO and Commissioner of Empire State Development Kenneth Adams today announced the membership of the Strategic Plan Review Committee who will assist in the review of the final strategic plans submitted by the ten Regional Economic Development Councils.

The committee membership includes experts from the private and public sectors as well as academia, each of whom has years of experience working on economic development projects and planning.

"The members of this strategic plan review committee have extensive experience in growing economies from the bottom up and leveraging state and local resources to create jobs," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. "The committee members will provide valuable feedback to the communities and the state on the impressive plans put forth by the regional councils."

Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy, who served as Chairman of the Regional Councils, said, "By changing the economic development process, we are developing a more productive system to create jobs and grow our economy. The Regional Council model is an invaluable tool for businesses to compete for funding and invest in the future economic success of New York."

The Regional Economic Development Councils represent a fundamental shift in the state's approach to economic development, from a top-down development model to a community-based approach that emphasizes regions' unique assets, harnesses local expertise, and empowers communities to stimulate regional economic development and create jobs statewide. To support the Regional Council initiative, Governor Cuomo has made \$1 billion in state resources available, including \$200 million in specially targeted economic development funding.

Strategic Plan Review Committee Members:

Dall W. Forsythe, *Senior Fellow at the Wagner School of Public Service, New York University and former Vice President for Finance and Operations at The Atlantic Philanthropies.*

Mr. Forsythe has served as Budget Director for the New York City Public Schools and Budget Director for the State of New York under Governor Mario Cuomo. He worked in the Public Finance Department at Lehman Brothers and served as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Prior to working at Atlantic, Mr. Forsythe was a Professor of Practice, Public Administration and Financial Management at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service and has previously taught at Columbia, Harvard, the University of Albany, and Baruch College.

Walter D. Broadnax, *Professor of Public Administration at The Maxwell School of Syracuse University.*

Before joining the Maxwell School, Mr. Broadnax served as president of Clark Atlanta University. He has also served as Dean of the School of Public Affairs at American University and as professor at both the University of Maryland and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. From 1993 to 1996, he served as Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He has also served as a member of the President of the United States' Management Council and a Special Advisor to the Vice President on management issues. He has served as President of the New York Civil Service Commission and as the Director of Children, Youth and Adult Services for the State of Kansas.

Bruce J. Katz, *Vice President at the Brookings Institution and founding Director of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program*

In his role at the Brookings Institution, Mr. Katz regularly advises federal, state, regional and municipal leaders on policy reforms that advance the competitiveness of metropolitan areas. After the 2008 presidential election, Bruce co-led the housing and urban transition team for the Obama administration and served as a senior advisor to new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary Shaun Donovan, for the first 100 days of the Administration. Katz is a graduate of Brown University and Yale Law School.

Joan McDonald, *Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation*

Before leading the NYS DOT, Commissioner McDonald served as Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development for the State of Connecticut and Chair of Connecticut Innovations, an authority providing venture capital to high tech start-up companies. From 2003-2007, she was the Senior Vice President of Transportation for the New York City Economic Development Corporation and spent five years as the Vice President in charge of New York and New Jersey at Jacobs Engineering.

Cesar Perales, New York State Secretary of State, will serve as a technical adviser to the review committee. The New York Department of State provided strategic planning experts as advisers to each of the ten regional councils during the application process.

The Strategic Plan Review Committee will analyze, score, and rank each region's Strategic Plan based on the following scoring criteria enumerated on page 37 of the Regional Council Guidebook which can be viewed in full at:

<http://nyworks.ny.gov/assets/documents/ResourceGuidebook.pdf>

1. Regional Economic Development Vision (5%)
2. Process (10%)
3. Strategies (35%)
4. Implementation (15%)
5. Leverage Resources (15%)
6. Performance Measures (20%)

Each region will have an opportunity to make an in-person presentation of their Strategic Plan according to the following schedule:

Monday, November 28, 2011:

Long Island Regional Economic Development Council - 2 p.m.

Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council – 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2011:

Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council – 9 a.m.

Capital Region Regional Economic Development Council - 10:30 a.m.

Mid Hudson Regional Economic Development Council - 12 p.m.

New York City Regional Economic Development Council - 2:30 p.m.

Central New York Regional Economic Development Council – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30, 2011:

Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council - 8:30 a.m.

North Country Regional Economic Development Council – 10 a.m.

Western New York Regional Economic Development Council 11:30 a.m.

All presentations will take place in the Blue Room of the State Capitol

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