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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sharon Watley Named Bay County EDA Chairman

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Jan. 31, 2007 – The Bay County Economic Development Alliance (EDA) welcomed Sharon Watley as the 2007 Chairman of the Board of Directors Friday, Jan. 26, at the Bay County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner at Edgewater Beach Resort and Conference Center. The annual dinner highlighted the year’s accomplishments and looked forward to the year to come.

“This is an exciting time in the face of Bay County’s changing landscape,” Watley said. “It is with great honor and humility that I assume the 2007 chairmanship of the EDA Board of Directors.”

Watley is President of General Scientific Manufacturing, Inc. She has been involved with the EDA and the Chamber for 11 years and has served as chairman elect of the EDA, chairman of the Existing Industry Committee and co-chairman of the Defense Contractors Roundtable.

“Sharon Watley is a wonderful asset to the EDA,” EDA Executive Director Ted Clem said. “She knows what makes Bay County such an exciting place to do business, and what can make it even better.”

In 2003, Watley was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to the Workforce Florida, Inc. board of directors and serves as a member of the First Jobs/First Wages Council. She is active in the local community and serves on the executive committee of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. She is also a past board member of Advocates for Children, Inc.

Watley earned a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from Albany State University and has completed training in Dartmouth College’s Minority Business Executive Program.

The Bay County Economic Development Alliance is a public/private partnership whose purpose is to encourage economic growth that enhances Bay County’s standard of living and quality of life. For more information on the EDA, go to www.BayCountyEDA.org.

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