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Development Authority of Monroe County Selects Kenneth “Bo” Gregory, Jr. as Economic Development Leader

(For Immediate Release – October 14, 2016) The Development Authority of Monroe County today announced Kenneth “Bo” Gregory, Jr., an experienced economic development professional, as the organization’s president. The announcement was made following a called meeting of the authority.

“The members of the development authority voted unanimously to appoint Bo to this position,” chairman James Vaughn stated. “He will bring a fresh perspective to our community regarding economic development and has the skill sets we were looking for to lead us forward in attracting new jobs, new investments, and work with existing businesses to maintain and grow their value to Monroe County.”

Most recently Gregory was director of economic development for the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce in Mountain Home, Arkansas. He has been involved in the job creation field since 2005 when he worked as a client services manager and then statewide economic developer for the North Carolina Department of Commerce. In 2010 he joined the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce in North Carolina as director of economic development. He has also held positions with a commercial real estate firm and marketing company.



Kenneth “Bo” Gregory, Jr.

“The opportunity to make a move to Georgia is very exciting for me and my family,” says Gregory. “The state is recognized as a leader in job creation and business friendly policies. Monroe County has incredible potential with Interstate 75 and excellent proximity to Atlanta and Georgia’s ports. The foundation that has been established by the members of the authority and Tiffany Andrews is a great launching pad to move the community forward.”

The Monroe County Chamber of Commerce and development authority were led by Andrews for several years. She resigned in May due to her husband accepting a position in Florida. Andrews has continued to support the development authority on various projects. The chamber and development authority have established a solid working agreement for office space, shared resources, and related services.

Development authority members have outlined several key areas for Gregory to focus on during his first six months in the seat. Getting to know the community in terms of available resources, including industrial sites,

and establishing a strategic plan for the development authority are at the top of the list. Other items include developing relationships with current partners involved in workforce development for the region and initiate relationships with statewide economic development agencies and site consultants.

Gregory's wife Susan and two boys, ages eight and ten, will be moving to Monroe County in December following the end of the school semester. Their plans are to enroll the children in the Monroe County School System when school returns to session in January 2017.

The development authority conducted a nationwide search for the president's position. There were 29 professionals who indicated an interest with eleven of those from Georgia. The authority spent a considerable amount of time over the past month interviewing seven candidates who met the qualifications outlined in a position description. The announcement of Gregory as the new leader matched the timeline established by the development authority in July.

"I am extremely proud of how the members of the development authority worked together to select the best professional to lead our community," Vaughn added. "This has truly been a team effort. The mix of expertise on the board has made a positive impact on the candidates and the search process."

Other members of the development authority include Tom Baugh, Jim Cole, Jim Ham, Phil Ham, Otis Ingram, Barry Peters, Robert Willis, and George Wilson.

Stakeholder interviews were conducted of authority members, elected officials, business advocates, and statewide economic development leaders. Feedback from those discussions provided the authority with a foundation for the development of a position description and the qualifications for candidates. Also, character traits were identified by the stakeholders as key factors when searching for the new executive.

The Chason Group, an executive search firm specializing in economic development, assisted the development authority in the process of selecting Gregory.