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Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation Continues to Grow with New Board Appointments

-Carl J. Chaney and Chevis C. Swetman join the nonprofit organization's board of directors; Bobby Hensley and Everett Lewis to increase involvement to hold voting positions on the board.

GULFPORT, Mississippi — Officials with the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation recently announced the appointment of Carl J. Chaney and Chevis C. Swetman to the board of directors for the nonprofit organization, which is focused on providing affordable workforce housing solutions to South Mississippi.

Chaney serves as chief executive officer and president of Hancock Holding Company and Hancock Bank. The Gulfport resident's professional affiliations include the American Bankers Association, the American Bar Association, University of Mississippi's Banking and Finance Counsel and the Mississippi Bank Attorneys' Committee.

Chaney holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in banking and finance and managerial finance, as well as a Jurist Doctorate from the University of Mississippi Law School. His community involvement includes affiliations with the Gulf Coast Carnival Association, the Gulfport Yacht Club and the Gulf Coast Symphony.

Swetman is president of The Peoples Bank in Biloxi. He is active in several charitable and civic efforts and was honored with the 2000 Mississippi Community Volunteer Award and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce 2006 Pat Santucci Spirit of the Coast Award.

Swetman is a past member of the Governor's Task Force for Economic Development and is currently serving on the Knight Foundation Advisory Board and the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal, among other affiliations. The Biloxi native holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg.

“Since our founding in 2006, the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation has continued to evolve and expand its services; therefore, we recognize the need and opportunity to grow our board of directors to best support our mission. Carl and Chevis bring with them banking and finance

leadership that, when combined with our already strong board, give us an invaluable foundation to move forward in providing affordable, attractive and safe solutions to the workforce housing gap in our community,” said Anthony Topazi, CEO of Mississippi Power and Chairman of Gulf Coast Renaissance.

Additionally, Bobby Hensley and Everett Lewis, chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the Renaissance Corporation’s Community Advisory Board, will become voting members on the organization’s board of directors.

Hensley currently serves as executive director of the Biloxi Housing Authority. His extensive experience in public housing includes holding executive positions with the Memphis Housing Authority and Mississippi Regional Authority VI.

Lewis, who is the affordable housing specialist for Back Bay Mission Inc. in Biloxi, has worked in the affordable housing sector for 12 years. He is credited with starting one of the first homebuyer education and homebuyer assistance programs in South Mississippi

“Bobby and Everett not only understand the goals of the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation, they have the working knowledge and experience to make those goals a reality. Their skills combined with their efforts in overseeing our Community Advisory Board, make both of these well-respected individuals invaluable assets to our board of directors,” said Topazi.

These individuals will join the current board members which include Margaret Gordon-Taylor, community leader; H. Gordon Myrick Jr., H. Gordon Myrick Inc.; and Christie L. Pickering, Christie Pickering CPA, Roy Anderson III, Roy Anderson Corp.; Herbert Dubuisson, Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty; Reilly Morse, Mississippi Center for Justice; Dorothy Shaw, Northrup Grumman Ship Systems; Karen Sock, Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc. and Martha Wilson Murphy, Coastal Land & Drilling.

About the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation

The Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation, founded in 2006 by several South Mississippi business leaders in the wake of Hurricane Katrina’s devastation, is a nonprofit organization focused on creating affordable housing solutions to Pearl River, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, George and Stone counties. For more information about the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation, please go to www.msgcrc.com or call (228) 896-3386.

About REACH Mississippi:

The Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp.’s REACH (Regional Employer Assisted Collaboration for Housing) Mississippi, which launched in August 2008, is an employer-assisted housing program designed to address challenges to the area’s rebuilding process by providing gap financing directly to individuals or families that makeup the workforce of South Mississippi. The program provides a three-to-one match to employer contributions for qualified workers a total household income less than 120 percent of the area median income (approximately \$60,000 annually for a family of four living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast).