

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Uptown United Names New President/CEO

CHICAGO—Uptown United, the community development corporation for the Uptown neighborhood in Chicago, Illinois, welcomes its new President and CEO, Alyssa Berman-Cutler. Ms. Berman-Cutler is a life-long Chicagoan with deep roots in community development work. Formerly, as a land use attorney at Foley & Lardner, she assisted clients in working with government matters, including zoning approvals, tax increment financing, and community support for development projects. She is an experienced project and team manager and has worked with Business and Professional People for the Public Interest and in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor (Quinn), background in public policy, community advocacy, and urban issues.



Alyssa Berman-Cutler

“Picking up on projects sizzling on the burners, Ms. Berman-Cutler will have an immediate role in the final formation of the Uptown United Credit Corporation, which was founded for the purpose of channeling New Market Tax Credits. She brings high energy, an in-depth knowledge of community development, and a strong ability to collaborate. We looked long and hard for these attributes and warmly welcome her.” said Suellen Long, Chairman of Uptown United.

Ms. Berman-Cutler will begin serving as President/CEO on August 9, 2010. Ms. Berman-Cutler stated, “I’m very excited to continue Uptown United’s great work in supporting and enhancing this vibrant and historic neighborhood. I look forward to working closely with business leaders and community members to advance economic development in Uptown.”

Ms. Berman-Cutler will be replacing Joyce Dugan, who led Uptown United since 2002. Among other things, Ms. Dugan was instrumental in the formation of Uptown’s Special Service Area (SSA) #34 and the creation of the Uptown Community Development Guidelines. She resigned this spring for health reasons.

Ms. Dugan stated, “It was my pleasure to be with Uptown United for eight great years. This time was very special to me because I have loved Uptown since we were first introduced during college in the 60’s. When I first saw Wilson and Broadway in 1965, I could not believe the scale and grandeur of the buildings—I felt like I had been sucked back to a time when life was more beautiful. To be able to participate in the changes over the last few years has been an honor. Relationships I formed and friendships made during

those eight years are lasting ones. Believe me, I will still be around. Alyssa Berman-Cutler has all the initiative and skills it will take to carry forward the mission of Uptown United and continue the success of Uptown's community development. The next ten years will be busy ones, years that will call on us to be creative and collaborative, and I believe she is just the person to meet these challenges. I wish her every success and hope she finds her work as personally rewarding as I did."

Ms. Long stated, "Joyce Dugan will be sorely missed by our entire community. She understood local concerns and addressed them. She built coalitions and relied on the community group network to get things done. Her support for job programs for residents and for a model community garden, as well as her inclusive organizational leadership skills, her vibrant energy, and more, will be her legacy."

As part of these new developments at Uptown United, Ms. Long also announced the promotion of Wally Rozak to Assistant Director. He will continue his duties as Administrator of SSA #34.

Uptown United is a 501(c)3 corporation. The mission of Uptown United is to provide technical assistance to businesses and economic investors located in and serving Uptown, initiate and participate in strategic planning, encourage economic development to strengthen the community's economic base, address broad issues pertaining to the quality of life for Uptown's diverse population, and be a network to encourage partnerships.

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