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City of Beverly Hills Names Susan Healy Keene Community Development Director

Beverly Hills, CA – The City of Beverly Hills has appointed Susan Healy Keene to the position of Community Development Director, effective June 1, 2009. Keene joins the City to oversee the over 50-person department, which includes the Planning, and Building and Safety divisions.

Keene will manage the City's Community Development Department, taking over from interim Director Anne Browning McIntosh. She will be responsible for implementing the City's long-range vision of development, safety and preservation. The Community Development Department ensures that community aesthetics and environment are maintained and enhanced, and that buildings are constructed safely.

"Susan's extensive experience in planning in the Westside region will be invaluable in working with our community to maintain our City's unique brand and world-class stature," stated City Manager Roderick Wood. "Her proactive approach will instill public confidence, while ensuring that our departments continue to exceed service expectations," he added.

"I am delighted to join the City of Beverly Hills and look forward to working with staff, Commissioners and the Council to maintain the high quality of life residents, businesses and visitors expect in this world-class community," stated Keene.

Keene brings to the City nearly 25 years of experience in municipal government, most recently serving as Community Development Director for the City of West Hollywood. In this position she worked on an update to the city's General Plan, addressing community concerns about neighborhood character, and traffic and transportation. Prior to that, she served in various Planning positions in the cities of Santa Monica and Corte Madera. Keene has also worked for architecture and engineering firms in Ohio and Tennessee.

Keene obtained her Bachelor of Urban Planning and Design from the University of Cincinnati. She is a member of numerous professional organizations including the League of California Cities (past president, Community Development Department), the American Institute of Certified Planners and the American Planning Association. Recently, she served as co-chair for the California American Planning Association Conference held in Hollywood.

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