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HEADLINE: Omaha Housing Authority Welcomes New Board Commissioner

Tony Welchen has been appointed by the Mayor's Office to serve on the Omaha Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners. Welchen was appointed March 20, 2007 and his term will expire March 2012. Welchen holds one of five seats on the board and brings to it 25 years of business experience. Welchen looks forward to serving as a technical resource for OHA. He currently works for the United Parcel Service (UPS) Ecommerce Sales force where he provides customized technology solutions that improve the operational, marketing and financial productivity of companies. Welchen hopes to bridge his professional experience and knowledge into positive solutions and outcomes for OHA residents.

"I am excited about the opportunity to give back. I hope to provide a fresh set of eyes, which will look for ways to take advantage of the technology today and to use these resources to improve the services provided to the families and communities that we serve," Welchen said.

Welchen currently serves on the Omaha Small Business Network (OSBN) Board and is involved with community agencies such as, the Urban League of Nebraska – Economic Development and the Omaha Public School Magnet Board. Welchen was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and relocated to the Omaha community at the age of four. Welchen is married with two children ages 7 and 12. They are members of the Church of the Living God, where Elder Jimmy Byrd is pastor.

Welchen recognizes how important his new role will be in providing opportunities for OHA families and the Omaha community. As a product of public housing, Welchen knows first hand that exposing residents to quality programs and services can make all the difference.

"Great people, who have done great things, have been a result of public housing." He states, "I understand the difficulties families face and the challenges that must be overcome in order to improve their quality of life, and I feel it is my responsibility to be available to support or assist whenever possible."

The Omaha Housing Authority is looking forward to the contribution Welchen will provide in order to **Build for the Brighter Tomorrow...Today.**