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Harriet Tregoning Departs SGA to Guide Growth and Development in the Nation's Capital

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Washington, DC — Washington Mayor-elect Adrian Fenty has appointed Harriet Tregoning, a smart growth pioneer and director of SGA's Smart Growth Leadership Institute since 2003, to lead the District of Columbia's Office of Planning.

The new post marks a return to the public sector for Tregoning, who served Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening (1995-2003) as the Secretary for Planning, and then as the Cabinet Secretary for Smart Growth, the first office of its kind in any U.S. state. In that unprecedented role, she chaired a 15-member Smart Growth Sub-cabinet and coordinated key smart-growth initiatives such as revitalizing neighborhoods, historic preservation, increasing transit and transit-oriented development, promoting walkable communities and preserving open space. Both she and Governor Glendening joined Smart Growth America after his second term.

As founding director of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, Tregoning built a program of technical assistance for local governments looking for ways to encourage more appealing and sustainable development. She also helped create the Governors' Institute on Community Design, a series of focused workshops for governors and their cabinet members that brings in leading experts on land use policy, urban design, transportation, energy, development, and regional economics to help inform the executive teams as they make choices that shape the future of their states' communities.

Don Chen, Executive Director of Smart Growth America, expressed great appreciation for Harriet's tireless work for Smart Growth America. "While Harriet has been a crucial part of our team, we are delighted that someone of her caliber will be in a position to help shape the future of our nation's capital.

"Her appointment demonstrates that cities and towns are increasingly hungry for visionary leaders with experience like hers in planning ahead for growth and ensuring that our communities are livable places, worth caring about," he said.

Tamar Shapiro, who as associate director of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute has helped shepherd the Governors' Institute on Community Design into being, has been promoted to replace Tregoning as director of SGLI. A

Harvard-trained attorney, Shapiro specialized in affordable housing development before joining SGA in 2005.

Tregoning, a 15-year resident of the District, said she is thrilled at the opportunity to focus on her own community after providing technical assistance to many others across the country.

“I hope to help D.C. citizens in neighborhoods throughout the District achieve a high quality of life enriched by choices in housing and transportation, efficient use of public infrastructure, distinctive community character, and a robust civic life,” Tregoning said. “Working in partnership with the citizens and civic and business leaders, we can ensure that growth and change in Washington will benefit residents and visitors alike.”

Dan Tangherlini, D.C. City Administrator and former Interim Director of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, praised Ms. Tregoning’s appointment. “Harriet brings all the qualities we could ask for in a new planning director: passion, focus, experience, and a love for our community,” he said. “She knows that good plans are those developed with strong citizen involvement and that the best plans are ones that actually get done.”

Ms. Tregoning expressed heartfelt gratitude to all of the people who have worked alongside her over the last 3 years on helping create brighter futures for communities across the country. “I am sorry to leave this organization where Don Chen and Governor Glendening have provided such visionary leadership. However, I am comforted by the fact that I leave SGA and SGLI in good hands, with terrific leadership and a bright future.”

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transit or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For additional information, please visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

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