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Michigan Community Resources Announces Jill Ferrari as New CEO

DETROIT – July 29, 2013 – Michigan Community Resources’ (MCR) Board of Directors announced today the appointment of Jill Ferrari as its new CEO. Ferrari is formerly the director of community development for Wayne County Economic Development Growth Engine (EDGE).

As CEO, Ferrari will lead and execute the goals and strategic vision of the organization. This includes cultivating funding, opportunities and relationships for the organization’s core service areas, community legal resources, community planning resources, and community education and outreach resources. These programs serve MCR’s mission to support and empower nonprofit community organizations in Michigan that serve low-income individuals and communities with an emphasis on community economic development, by providing pro bono legal services and technical assistance.

“Ferrari’s extensive experience working with federal, state and local stakeholders to serve communities across Wayne County makes her the perfect fit to lead Michigan Community Resources,” said Geaneen Arends, chairperson of MCR’s Board of Directors and attorney at Butzel Long. “We are excited about the vast knowledge she brings to each one of our programs and her enthusiasm to nurture and grow our organization.”

As director of community development for the Wayne County EDGE, Ferrari was responsible for managing federally funded projects throughout the county. This included providing technical assistance to non-profits and communities for the community development initiatives, leveraging funding for community development projects, the demolition of over 450 blighted structures in the City of Detroit, and the designing and implementing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), a \$26 million federally-funded program to stabilize neighborhoods.

Prior to this role, Ferrari served as vice president of acquisitions for a private developer, where she managed the acquisition and entitlements for over 85 acres of land in downtown Las Vegas. She also owned a consulting firm located in Downtown Detroit specializing in urban redevelopment that packaged incentives for over 30 projects in Southeast Michigan. Additionally, she has practiced as an attorney specializing in real estate and brownfield development.

“When I was made aware of the CEO position at Michigan Community Resources, I quickly realized that all of my experience was ultimately preparing me for this role and to serve the community through the organization’s mission,” said Ferrari. “It’s truly an honor to continue the incredible work MCR has conducted for our region and state and to develop ways in which we can further our mission to serve low-income communities.”

Ferrari is succeeding Heidi Alcock, who served as executive director and then CEO for six years and resigned effective in April to serve as senior program manager for the Detroit Future City Program Management Office.

During the transition, MCR's director of education and outreach programs, Shamyle Nesfield, served as interim CEO, and Steve Tobocman, managing partner of New Solutions Group, was retained as a special advisor to the board.

MCR was founded in 1998, MCR has provided over \$12 million in free legal assistance to over 1000 nonprofits in Michigan and vacant property related assistance to over 200 community organizations in Detroit. Find MCR at www.mi-community.org.

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