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**AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCATES ANNUAL MEETING
Hamilton County Community Development Director, Susan Walsh,
Receives Career Achievement Award**

Cincinnati, Ohio —June 28, 2011—

At its Annual Meeting on June 28, Affordable Housing Advocates recognized Susan Walsh, Hamilton County Director of Community Development, with a Career Achievement Award.

In announcing the award, Elizabeth Brown, president of Affordable Housing Advocates, praised Walsh for her quiet and common sense approach to dealing with controversial issues involving affordable housing. “During her career, Susan Walsh has overseen the creation of numerous units of affordable housing to meet the needs of residents of Hamilton County. She is fair and respectful to everyone, whether they are a low-income tenant, a local government official, or a private developer. Her quiet competency, knowledge of the rules governing housing programs, and openness to new ideas has made her effective and productive. Her retirement later this year will leave a huge hole for the County.”

Walsh has worked for Hamilton County since 1984. She began as a Housing Specialist for the Section 8 Office, was promoted to Supervisor, and then Deputy Director of Community Development in 1994. She became Director of Community Development in February, 2007. She administers the federal funds for community development and housing received by the County, with an overall budget of approximately \$5 million per year. In recent years, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act substantially increased the funding available to the County and increased Walsh’s responsibilities.

Susan holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from the University of Cincinnati, is a certified Housing Development Finance Professional, and was awarded the Ohio Community Development Professional Certification in 2007. She is a Past President of the National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED), and past President of the Ohio Conference of Community Development. She serves on the Board of the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency.

Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA) is a coalition of housing providers, civic organizations, and individuals dedicated to the goal of ensuring good, safe, accessible, affordable housing for all people living in Greater Cincinnati. AHA supports affordable housing through education and advocacy. For more information about Affordable Housing Advocates, call Elizabeth Brown at 721-4663 or visit www.ahacincy.org.