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Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation

### **Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp. Appoints New Board Members**

*- John Baxter and David Nichols join the affordable workforce-housing nonprofit's board of directors*

GULFPORT, Miss. (April 21, 2011) – Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp. officials recently announced the appointment of John Baxter and David Nichols to the nonprofit's board of directors.

Baxter, a state retail executive for Hancock Bank, was a founding board member of Renaissance Corp. and is returning after a 3-year hiatus. He has been with Hancock Bank, one of the area's largest mortgage lenders, since 1995.

Baxter, a native of Bay St. Louis, holds a graduate degree in Banking from Louisiana State University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Mississippi. Active in the community, he is involved with many local civic and charitable organizations, including the Gulfport Rotary, the United Way of South Mississippi, St. Stanislaus High School, Hancock Medical Center Foundation and the Coast Chamber of Commerce.

Nichols is the urban and economic development director for the city of Gulfport, a position he was appointed to in March. Prior to this position, he served as a planning consultant, working with several municipalities and community/economic development organizations, including city of Gulfport, the city of D'Iberville, the city of Biloxi, the Biloxi Housing Authority, Mississippi Development Authority, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, and Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp. Nichols' extensive professional career also includes serving as chief administrative officer for the city of Gulfport from 2006 to 2007 and chief administrative officer of the city of Biloxi from 1994 to 2001.

A native of Laurel, Nichols holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Mississippi and a Bachelor of Business from the University of Mississippi.

“As a nonprofit, one of our greatest strengths comes from a strong, knowledgeable board of directors,” said Kimberly LaRosa, president and CEO of Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp. “John Baxter and David Nichols bring expertise in their respective areas of finance and lending and planning and development to our organization. Their extensive professional experiences will certainly help guide GCRC as we move forward in promoting growth and sustainability for South Mississippi's communities.”

Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp., founded in 2007 by several South Mississippi business leaders in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, is a nonprofit organization focused on creating affordable-housing solutions in Pearl River, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, George and Stone counties. Through many community partnerships, GCRC has made the dream of homeownership a reality for more than 628 families, resulting in an economic impact of approximately \$7.9 million in South Mississippi. For more information about the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp., please go to [www.msgcrc.com](http://www.msgcrc.com) or call (228) 896-3386.