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Former West Palm Beach, Fla., Mayor to Begin December 1

SAN DIEGO – The Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) board of directors today named Nancy C. Graham, 59, of West Palm Beach, Florida, as the corporation's fourth president and chief operating officer. Graham will replace the retiring Peter Hall, who has served as CCDC's president since 1995. She begins in her new position on December 1.

"Nancy Graham exhibits the vision and leadership needed for CCDC's next president, especially with all the new opportunities before us," said Hal Sadler, CCDC board chair. "Her approach to revitalizing West Palm Beach, experience in the development of urban in-fill projects, legal expertise and knowledge of urban redevelopment strategies led us all to believe that she would best guide the future of downtown."

Graham is currently a partner with N-K Ventures, LLC, involved in the development of urban in-fill projects, which provides consulting services for cities and developers on urban redevelopment strategies. Elected in 1991, she became the first mayor to be elected after a charter change created a strong-mayor form of government for West Palm Beach. She served as the city's mayor until March 1999. Under her leadership, the city experienced a remarkable renaissance, especially downtown. Prior to serving as mayor, Graham practiced law for 10 years, specializing in land use, zoning, comprehensive planning and environmental law.

"The board conducted a well-defined and thorough national search to replace Peter Hall," said Gil Johnson, chair of the search committee. "We knew what qualities and expertise were desirable in the next leader for downtown redevelopment, and Nancy Graham clearly fit the bill. She has the experience and exhibited those unique qualities necessary to lead what is considered to be a successful, dynamic organization."

Graham's vision and leadership have been recognized through numerous national, state and local awards, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors' City Livability Award and the 1,000 Friends of Florida Community Steward Award for the revitalization of downtown West Palm Beach. She was listed by *Newsweek* as one of the top 25 mayors in the country, and has been the subject of feature stories in *Working Woman Magazine* and the *New York Times*. *Governing Magazine* honored her in November 1998 as one of the ten national "Public Officials of the Year."

She has served on numerous state, county and local business and non-profit organizations. Then-Governor Lawton Chiles appointed her in 1996 to the Governor's Transportation and Land Use Study Commission. In 2000, Governor Jeb Bush appointed her to the Growth Management Study Commission to review and make recommendations for updating Florida's growth management laws (she chaired the Urban Revitalization Subcommittee). She has also served on the Joint Center for Sustainable Communities and the Palm Beach County-Wide Planning Council.

Nancy Graham is a graduate of the University of Central Florida (1979 with high honors), and the University of Florida Holland Law Center (1982, number 2 in class, and the Order of the Coif). Born in Nashville, Tennessee, she is married, has two children and four grandchildren.

"CCDC has been well served by Peter Hall, and we sincerely thank him and wish him a long-lived and enjoyable retirement," said Sadler. During Hall's ten-year tenure, downtown experienced \$3.79 billion of new private investment, \$637.4 million of public investment (mostly tax increment), and grew by 2,564 hotel rooms, 700,000 square feet of commercial space (adding 33,820 construction and permanent jobs), 6,314 new homes (1,162 at low-to moderate-income levels), the second phase of the San Diego Convention Center and PETCO Park.

"The ballpark was a fitting cap for a career that involved downtown real estate for more than 30 years," said Sadler. Prior to his time with CCDC, Hall was senior vice president and manager of the Real Estate Finance Department at the former San Diego Federal Savings & Loan and president of Great American Development Company, the real estate development subsidiary of Great American Bank.

While the past ten years downtown included significant focus on new residential development, Graham will oversee more than \$600 million of planned infrastructure improvements and new amenities that will add to downtown's quality of life. Downtown experienced great growth over the last ten years, but new opportunities indicate an even greater future. There are currently more than 100 development projects planned or underway, including the recently approved Ballpark Village Master Plan, the pending master plan for the Navy Broadway Complex, implementation of the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan and the pending passage of downtown's new Community Plan.

CCDC is a public, nonprofit corporation created by the City of San Diego in 1975 to facilitate the redevelopment of downtown's 1,500 acres. The corporation's 48 employees include expertise in commercial and residential development, planning, engineering, finance, marketing and communications.

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About CCDC

Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) is a public, nonprofit corporation established in 1975 by the City of San Diego to plan and facilitate the redevelopment of downtown's 1,500 acres. To learn more, visit: www.ccdc.com.

Special Notes: CCDC's News Digest can be delivered to your e-mail address. Simply fill out our email alerts form to choose the type of messages you would like to receive. CCDC's regular meetings held at City Hall are televised live on City Access TV channel 24-Time Warner and Cox Cable.