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Advocates Celebrate New HUD Appointment

St. Paul, Minn. (December 15, 2008) – This weekend, President-elect Barack Obama named Shaun Donovan as the next Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Minnesota Housing Partnership joins national housing groups in celebrating this leadership choice.

Donovan currently serves as New York City's housing commissioner. Under Donovan's leadership, the department created more than 80,000 affordable housing units between 2004 and 2008. Earlier in his career, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing at HUD. In addition to his civil service career, the incoming secretary has nonprofit housing experience that includes his employment at the Community Preservation Corporation in New York City and the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University as well as serving on the boards of the National Housing Trust Fund and The Campaign for Affordable Housing.

"Shaun Donovan is the type of leader we hoped President Obama would select for HUD," says MHP executive director Chip Halbach. "Donovan is an accomplished administrator at the local government level and knows how HUD can be improved. In addition, Shaun understands the necessity of strengthening the public's resolve to address the country's lack of affordable housing."

National advocates agree.

Sheila Crowley, president of National Low Income Housing Coalition, writes that "Shaun Donovan is a brilliant choice for HUD. He is an expert on the full range of housing issues and has a proven track record of getting things done."

Michael Bodaken, president of the National Housing Trust, commented in a press release that "Shaun has the right experience, judgment and leadership ability to restore a vision to HUD that recognizes the critical role that affordable housing plays in the well-being of millions of working families."

The Minnesota Housing Partnership is a statewide nonprofit organization that advances the preservation and creation of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income people as a means of strengthening communities and families. MHP provides local governments and nonprofit housing organizations access to loans, grants, and technical expertise to plan and construct housing, in addition to advocating and educating people on sound housing policies. MHP's work in Greater Minnesota is primarily supported by The McKnight Foundation.

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