



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Appoints Susan Bell Commissioner of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

July 8, 2010, Anchorage, Alaska – Governor Sean Parnell today appointed Susan Bell as commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. She replaces Emil Notti, who is retiring from state service July 9.

"I, along with many Alaskans, admire and respect Emil for his decades of service and understanding of the important issues facing Alaska," Governor Parnell said. "Emil has played a significant role in Alaska's history."

Bell has been serving as a special assistant to the governor working closely with the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. Bell also served as a steering committee member for Alaska Forward, a statewide economic development planning initiative that includes representatives from the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, the University of Alaska, U.S. Economic Development Administration and regional economic development associations.

"Having worked on economic development projects throughout the state, Susan is familiar with the unique challenges and opportunities facing Alaskan communities," Governor Parnell said.

Originally from Nome, Bell is a shareholder of Bering Straits Native Corporation and Sitnasuak Native Corporation. She served as a vice president for Goldbelt Incorporated, with responsibility for the marketing and management of nearly a dozen separate business ventures. As part of the corporation's senior management team, Bell had extensive interaction with the board of directors, employees, shareholders and the public. Bell received a bachelor's degree from the University of Alaska.

Bell has also served as a partner for an Alaska research and consulting firm. She has contributed to numerous analyses of Alaska's industries and economy. Bell has helped many Alaskans enhance their economic status and quality of life through strategic development of diverse projects, including roads and docks, and recreational facilities.

The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development promotes a healthy economy and strong communities. By providing information and technical and financial assistance, the department helps improve the quality of life for all Alaskans. Additionally, the department facilitates responsible economic development

and fosters employment opportunities for Alaskans, while offering specialized assistance in the tourism, film, small business, fisheries and minerals development sectors.

A photo of Susan Bell is available at:

http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell_media/documents/photos/Susan_Bell.jpg

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