



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jeffrey T. Verespej appointed Chief of Staff & Operations of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
to lead administrative affairs and implementation of CNP's new strategic plan.

In October, the Board of Directors for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP) adopted a new, five-year strategic plan to guide the organization's work to equitably revitalize Cleveland neighborhoods by strengthening the community development ecosystem. CNP has hired Jeffrey T. Verespej into the new role of Chief of Staff & Operations to lead the organization's administrative affairs and to begin executing the work outlined in that plan. "Jeff's experiences working at and leading community development corporations, navigating challenges, and collaborating with neighbors, businesses, and other practitioners in the community development industry made him the ideal candidate for this new position," said Tania Menesse, CNP's President and Chief Executive Officer.

With the announcement of this position, Jeff shared the following statement: "The conditions of Cleveland neighborhoods are directly connected to the health and prosperity of Clevelanders. I'm honored to join Cleveland Neighborhood Progress in its mission to improve lives through supporting the community development ecosystem in Cleveland. It's strategic plan firmly places building the capacity of community development corporations at the center of its work and I look forward to supporting CNP to achieve those goals."

Jeff is a life-long Clevelander who has spent the last eight years as the Executive Director of Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC), which serves Cleveland's largest neighborhood, over 30,000 residents, and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Under his leadership, the organization established an innovative community health strategy, blending public health and community development. It has facilitated the redevelopment of multiple historic buildings in the neighborhood, partnered to build a new, 25-acre park, and led marketing and event strategies to attract investment and built civic pride within Old Brooklyn. The Ohio Association of Community Development Corporations honored OBCDC in 2017 with the "CDC of the Year" award.

Prior to leading OBCDC, Jeff worked at Ohio City Incorporated and University Circle Incorporated. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, both from Case Western Reserve University. In addition to his professional and academic qualifications, Jeff served as the President of the Case Western Reserve University Alumni Association and is a former Chair of the Leadership Council for the Cleveland Leadership Center. Jeff also continues serving on the National Steering Committee for the Middle Neighborhoods Initiative, a neighborhood reinvestment approach he brought to Cleveland in 2018.



Jeff resides in Cleveland's Edgewater neighborhood with his wife Sara and their children Theodore, Noah, and Ethan.

About Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

The mission of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress is to foster equitable revitalization throughout Cleveland's neighborhoods by strengthening the community development ecosystem. That ecosystem includes Cleveland's network of community development corporations, city and county government entities, housing providers, public space partners, economic and workforce development partners, private and public funders, neighborhood-based organizations, and a wide network of other stakeholders and partners.

CNP was founded in 1988 to serve as a local intermediary for community development corporations. Today, CNP has expanded its impact by engaging in real estate development, through its subsidiary New Village Corporation, and by direct lending, through its subsidiary Village Capital Corporation, which is a federally certified community development financial institution.