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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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## **New Alliance President Chosen**

The Executive Committee of the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance has selected Darryl Gosnell to succeed Jones Hooks as President and CEO of the organization. Mr. Gosnell most recently served as Senior Vice President, Economic Development, for the Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce and has held similar regional economic development positions in Des Moines, Iowa; Dayton, Ohio; Gainesville, Florida; Greenville, South Carolina; Miami, Florida; and for the West Virginia Department of Commerce. He holds both a BS degree and an MPA from West Virginia University, and he is a Certified Economic Developer and a graduate of the Economic Development Institute.

Mr. Gosnell was selected from a field of seven finalists, presented in an applicant pool of over 30 candidates by Jorgenson Consulting, an executive search firm that specializes in recruiting and placing economic development officials. The search process started on April 30<sup>th</sup> with the receipt of the letter of resignation from Mr. Hooks. It is anticipated that Mr. Gosnell will start his position on October 27, 2008.

The search committee, comprised of Richard Bagley, Wendy Drucker, Warren Harris, Florence Kingston, John Padgett, Deborah Stearns, and chaired by Mike Barrett, was a combination of public officials and private investors. The Chairman of the Alliance, Jerry Clark, was an ex-officio member of the Search Committee. Their recommendation to the Executive Committee to offer the position to Mr. Gosnell was unanimous. Reasons cited for his selection included his experience and accomplishments in multiple regional economic development entities; his knowledge of and experience in international marketing programs; his performance in multiple interviews with the Search Committee; and the need for an executive with a fresh perspective to lead the organization after the nine year tenure of Mr. Hooks.