



## **Communities of Faith United for Housing**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CFUH Commends the Appointment of Michael O'Reilly as Chair of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness in Ten Years**

**Fairfax County, VA, March 24, 2009** – Communities of Faith United for Housing (CFUH) enthusiastically supports the appointment of Michael O'Reilly as chair of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness in Ten Years ("Governing Board").

"We are thrilled by this long-awaited appointment for the Governing Board. Mike will do an excellent job in partnership with Dean Klein, the recently appointed director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness," said CFUH Chair, Gerry Williams. "It is critical that the Office and the Governing Board begin working together immediately to implement the plan to end homelessness, as the current economic crisis, has exacerbated an already serious problem. The number of homeless people in Fairfax County and Falls Church is on the rise. For example, among Fairfax County students, homelessness is up 20% from a year ago."

O'Reilly, appointed to the new position by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, served with several local commissions, boards and organizations, including two consecutive terms as a member of the Herndon Town Council. He served as Mayor of the Town of Herndon from 2004 to 2006.

In March 2008, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the Implementation Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community in Ten Years ("Ten Year Plan"). The Governing Board will provide leadership, policy direction, community visibility and resource development for the Ten Year Plan.

CFUH led a coordinated advocacy effort last year urging the Board of Supervisors to pass the Plan and continues to press the County to implement the Plan. CFUH strongly supports the preservation of tools and resources in the County to combat homelessness. "The Penny for Affordable Housing" is a crucial funding source for the Housing First strategy, a core component of the Ten Year Plan. Sufficient affordable housing is needed to move individuals and families out of shelters into permanent housing.

CFUH is an advocacy network of faith communities in the Fairfax/Falls Church community who are committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing within our community. Our special focus is on providing permanent housing opportunities for those at the lowest levels of income who are either homeless or dangerously close to becoming homeless. To learn more about CFUH, visit our website at [www.cfuhfx.org](http://www.cfuhfx.org).

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