

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Former State Representative, Steve Tobocman, and former Tobocman Chief-of-Staff, Lisa Nuskowski, Hired as Co-Directors of Michigan Foreclosure Task Force***

Lansing, MI - **The Community Economic Development Association of Michigan is pleased to announce the hiring of Steve Tobocman and Lisa Nuskowski as Co-Directors of the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force.** Tobocman was most recently Majority Floor Leader of the Michigan House of Representatives until leaving the House in January due to term limits. Tobocman was active as an attorney and advocate in Michigan's affordable housing and community development industry before joining the Legislature in 2003. Nuskowski worked on strategic management initiatives for the City of Detroit before joining Tobocman's legislative staff in 2007.

"Working families across our state have seen their dream of homeownership slip away during this crisis," said Tobocman. Added Nuskowski, "We need to protect Michigan's families and neighborhoods by enacting strong consumer protection laws, help homeowners find ways to stay in their homes, and put vacant and foreclosed homes back into productive use." According to RealtyTrac, Michigan posted the 6<sup>th</sup> highest mortgage foreclosure rate in the nation with 2.35% of all housing units in some stage of by early 2009. In Detroit thousands of foreclosed homes threaten to further lower neighboring property values and are often stripped and vandalized before neighbors and city government can act.

The Michigan Foreclosure Task Force was formed in 2007 to address the ongoing foreclosure crisis in Michigan. Members of the Task Force include foreclosure prevention counselors from across the state, legal services attorneys, financial institution representatives, state agency staff, and elected officials working together to expand foreclosure counseling efforts in Michigan, address the state's weak consumer protection laws and mitigate the neighborhood impacts of concentrated foreclosures. The Michigan Foreclosure Task Force is supported by the Ford Foundation, NeighborWorks® America, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Bank of America and the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan.