

NEWS RELEASE

GREATER FREEPORT PARTNERSHIP HIRES REBECCA MOTLEY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Motley To Lead New Organization In June That Will Promote Regional Growth
In Freeport And Stephenson County*

Freeport, Illinois, May 16, 2018—The Greater Freeport Partnership, which is designed to promote economic development, tourism, Main Street and business services to grow the Freeport and Stephenson County region, has hired Rebecca Motley as Executive Director of the newly formed organization.

Motley has 25 years of experience in economic development, commercial lending, non-profit management and commercial real estate investment. For the past three years, she has been an economic development consultant to Rantoul, Illinois, a community of 13,000 formerly home to a U.S. Air Force base. Recently, Motley recruited a hotel, promoted expansion of a food processing facility and developed a Shop Rantoul First marketing campaign. She has also served as a leader in Rantoul Tomorrow, a collaborative community-building effort.

"We conducted a national search to find a leader with vision, expertise, and experience in economic development and community building, and Rebecca stood out among the candidates," says Gary Quinn, chairman of the Greater Freeport Partnership. "Working with a diverse group of stakeholders in Rantoul, Rebecca has led a revitalization effort that is transforming the community. We are excited to welcome her to the Greater Freeport area and look forward to building an organization, and bridges, in the community to move forward."

Motley will hire a staff of seven including a planning and development director, a member service director, a tourism and marketing director, visitors center manager and administrative staff. She will start June 18.

"I'm so pleased to join the forward-looking and thoughtful leaders who have formed the Greater Freeport Partnership," Motley said. "I look forward to working with the region's stakeholders in this historic and wonderful community to promote economic development, tourism, Main Street and business services to grow the Freeport and Stephenson County region."

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Greater Freeport Partnership

27 W Stephenson St, Freeport, IL 61032

A COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE REGIONAL GROWTH

Greater Freeport Partnership recently formed when the boards of directors of Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA), Freeport/Stephenson County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Freeport Downtown Development Foundation (FDDF) and Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce voted to create a new organization that brings together the four organizations and four boards of directors into one organization with one mission, one board and one voice. The Partnership will begin operating in June 2018.

Funding will come from the City of Freeport, NIDA investors, Chamber members and FDDF sponsors, and, if approved, from Stephenson County. Revenue will also be generated through co-op advertising programs, grants and revenue from events.

The 17-person initial board includes three representatives from each of the four organizations, plus the Freeport City Manager, Stephenson County Board Chair, a representative from Highland Community College and the Freeport School District; and a representative from either another taxing jurisdiction or not-for-profit designated by the Board.

For more information, contact: Chuck Colley at ccolley@a5inc.com or John Harris at jharris@a5inc.com.

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