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EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Grigalonis, Chief Operating Officer of the Chester County Economic Development Council, at 610 458-5700.

Regional elected officials receive briefing on Chester County Economic Development Council and Council's 2008 initiatives and services

Priorities include public safety training facility

EXTON _ Elected officials from throughout Chester County were given a detailed briefing on the initiatives and priority projects of the Chester County Economic Development Council for the coming year.

Some of the priority projects receiving CCEDC support include a county public safety training facility, a Keystone Innovative Zone, the Smart Energy Initiative, and the Workforce Housing Initiative, according to the presentation given on Thursday by Gary Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Council, and members of his staff.

“We were thrilled with the response from our local elected officials. Successful economic development projects require strong collaboration among business, community and political leaders. This briefing allowed us the opportunity to brief our local elected officials on important projects for 2008” said Smith.

Attending the briefing were Pennsylvania Senators Andrew Dinniman and John Rafferty; Pennsylvania House of Representatives members Art Hershey, Barbara McIlvaine-Smith, Chris Ross, Duane Milne, Curt Schroder and Carole Rubley; and Chester County Commissioners Carol Aichele, Terence Farrell and Kathi Cozzone.

The elected officials were told that current and future impact projects include those in Phoenixville and at St. Peter's Village in northern Chester County; the Wyeth site in West Chester, Uptown Worthington, Atwater and Whiteland Village in eastern Chester County; Keystone Helicopter, Keystone Foods, Coatesville and the Octorara School District in western Chester County; and NVF, Genesis Health Care and New Garden Township in southern Chester County.

“Our mission is to grow existing companies in Chester County that ultimately create jobs and wealth in Chester County.” Smith said. “We have a staff of 44, including our partners, and our gross revenues are more than \$13 million.”

The Economic Development Council provides commercial loans and financial services, plus workforce retention, expansion and training, brownfields redevelopment, community development, international business assistance, agricultural economic development and government and municipal services.

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for more than 40 years. The Council's portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its brand new facility in Eagleview. For more information, see www.cceconomicdevelopment.com