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Contact: Suzie Lusk
Phone: 615.256.5141

TOM DYER, VICE CHAIRMAN OF MEMPHIS & SHELBY COUNTY (EDGE), HONORED AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.) – The Tennessee Economic Development Council (TEDC) has recognized Tom Dyer, Vice Chairman of Memphis & Shelby County (EDGE), as the 2018 Jim Spradley Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Dyer’s experience and success in economic development were honored in his award selection for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Tom has been actively engaged with economic development for Memphis and Shelby County for more than two decades. His legacy began in 1995 as a member of the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors. Tom served on the Chamber’s Executive Committee as Chairman of International Development and was successful in building a program that became a model for similar programs across the country. He oversaw the development of the Memphis Chamber’s export/import initiative and worked alongside FedEx as its focus shifted to international shipping.

Having served as a host for many different international events, Tom was also a Memphis ambassador for dignitaries from other countries and regions across the United States. In 2003, Tom was appointed to the Governor’s Economic Advisory Council and served until 2010, when he was appointed by the Mayor of Shelby County to the Board of Directors of the newly created Economic Development Growth Engine (EDGE). He still serves in that capacity as vice chairman and has been a Board member of the Shelby County Port Authority from 2010 to present.

One of Tom’s most impressive projects includes helping to develop a sustainable pipeline

of skilled talent for the medical device manufacturing industry. Tom worked diligently alongside local and state officials as a major advocate for creating an industry association for workforce training, the Greater Memphis Medical Device Council (GMMDC), which was established in 2014. From his board of directors' position on EDGE, he continues to support the GMMDC and its initiatives and remains dedicated to other workforce initiatives.

Additionally, Tom was an early advocate for offering TIFs as an economic development instrument. Although TIFs were utilized throughout certain parts of Tennessee, Memphis was slow to deviate from PILOTs as a way to secure industrial projects. Tom realized a need and encouraged the EDGE Board to begin offering TIFs.

Tom also helped secure state funding for an industrial facility for NE Shelby County to support the medical device industry's CNC Machining skills requirements, advocated a PILOT for a \$20 million expansion for Memphis based Thomas & Betts, approved a \$20 million expansion project for JNJ Logistics, LLC that created 222 new jobs, and helped shepherd a \$94 million TIF for a 60-acre \$375 million mixed-use development called Parkside at Shelby Farms.

Tom also encouraged the use of PILOT's for inner city redevelopment in which the Cash Saver-Southgate Center was given a \$6.8 million upgrade to attract anchor tenants as well as the Binghampton Gateway Center that will have a new \$7 million retail center replace a once delinquent apartment complex within the next few years.

TEDC is a statewide professional organization for those involved in economic development. The Jim Spradley Volunteer of the Year Award was established in 1977. Recipients of the award must be nominated by TEDC members and selected by a committee of past presidents of TEDC from the field of nominees. Tom's accomplishments were recognized at the TEDC Annual Fall Conference, which was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

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