



Mark Barbash

Interim Director

Ohio Department of Development

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland appointed Mark Barbash as Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Development on February 17, 2009. Prior to being appointed Interim Director, Mark served as Chief Economic Development Officer for the Ohio Department of Development, leading a team of more than 400 people with Lt. Governor Lee Fisher.

In this role, Mark is the chief architect of economic development strategy for the Strickland/Fisher Administration, supervising programs and projects for the State of Ohio in technology, economic development, global affairs, community development, travel and tourism, and urban affairs. He has been instrumental in the state's efforts to retain, attract, and create jobs, leading economic development projects to reinvigorate Ohio companies and communities. In recognition of his long career in economic development, Mark received the designation of "fellow member" of the International Economic Development Council in 2008.

Prior to joining the Strickland/Fisher Administration, he served as Director for the City of Columbus under Mayor Michael B. Coleman for seven years. Responsible for a wide range of economic and community development activities and initiatives, he managed the city's programs for economic and neighborhood development, housing, social services, building and zoning codes, planning, and downtown development. He oversaw a budget of \$45 million and a staff of 400.

From 1991 through 2000, Mark served as Executive Director of Columbus Countywide Development Corporation, a non-profit small business lender and one of the largest non-profit small business lenders in the nation. Prior to that position, he served as Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Development, where he managed the state's business and industrial development programs from 1985 to 1989.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the International Economic Development Council, the association for development professionals. Mark has served as a board member for a wide range of development organizations, including the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission, the Business Technology Center (a Columbus technology incubator), Campus Partners, the Columbus Compact Corporation, the Franklin County (Ohio) Planning Commission, and the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO), Columbus' local professional theater group.

He is an experienced trainer in economic development, business, and real estate financing, and has taught for a wide range of national economic development organizations: the Ohio Economic Development Association; the Economic Development Institute; Basic Economic Development courses in Indiana, Michigan, Washington, and Kentucky; the National Association of Development Companies; the American Economic Development Association; the National Association of Development Organizations; the NASA-funded Midcontinent Technology Transfer Center in Houston, Texas; and the National Business Incubation Association.

Mark graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1971. Married to Mary Cartter Barbash, the pair has one daughter, Rachael Elizabeth Barbash.

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