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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City Participates in National Summit on Your City's Families

Boston, Mass. – (October 15, 2009) On behalf of the City of Erie and Erie Together, City of Erie Community and Economic Development Director, Kim Green, along with Debi Liebel, Project Consultant for Erie Together through the Mercyhurst Civil Institute, joined several hundred local leaders in Boston, Massachusetts October 11-13, for the 2009 National Summit on Your City's Families. Hosted by the National League of Cities' (NLC) Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute), the summit focused on the country's most innovative initiatives promoting child and family well-being, including strategies to help families cope with the current economic climate.

On Sunday they participated in a full-day National Poverty Reduction Peer Networking workshop to discuss and determine successful best practices being utilized throughout the country, directly correlating with the mission of Erie Together. Erie Together is a county-wide collaborative effort between Mercyhurst College, the United Way of Erie County, Greater Erie Community Action Committee, the City of Erie, and other community partners, supported by the Erie Community Foundation and the Erie Women's Fund, working to address the issues of poverty within our community.

Summit attendees also participated in general sessions, workshops and site visits highlighting city programs and strategies in areas such as:

- family financial stability
- school improvement and dropout prevention
- afterschool programming
- youth violence prevention
- early literacy and school readiness
- childhood obesity prevention
- reengaging disconnected youth

“The opportunity to participate in this summit has been very enlightening to all of us. As the City of Erie continues to develop our five year plan, we come away with a host of best practices that we can employ to benefit our most needy residents,” said Kim Green. “The reality is that poverty in our community affects our entire region. This has a lasting and long-term effect on our future and quality of life and needs to be address.”

“The leaders at the Summit on Your City’s Families understand that, despite being in the worst economic downturn in generations, the health and well-being of families and children is what strengthens communities,” said Clifford M. Johnson, executive director of the YEF Institute. “By participating in this national leadership event, city officials have a unique opportunity to learn from their peers and come up with creative solutions as they seek to do more with less.”

To learn more about the 2009 National Summit on Your City’s Families, visit
<http://www.nlc.org/iyef/>.

The Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, a special entity within the National League of Cities, helps municipal leaders take action on behalf of the children, youth and families in their communities. NLC launched the YEF Institute in January 2000 in recognition of the unique and influential roles that mayors, city council members and other local leaders can play in strengthening families and improving outcomes for children and youth.

The National League of Cities is the nation’s oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

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