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## **HVRC Announces New Board Leadership & Interim Executive Director**

**NEWBURGH, NY (November 29, 2022)** – The Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) is pleased to announce the appointment of a new slate of officers for its Board and welcome an Interim Executive Director.

Bridget Gibbons, Westchester County Director of Economic Development, has been appointed Chair of the HVRC Board of Directors. Ms. Gibbons has served on the Board since 2018 and brings a deep understanding of the Westchester County economy and the Hudson Valley Region to this role.

“The Hudson Valley Regional Council is a critical economic development resource for the region,” Ms. Gibbons said. “I am proud to lead the Board, and help guide the organization, into its next chapter as we plan for the continued economic growth and vitality of the region.”

Also appointed to leadership positions on the HVRC Board are:

- Ulster County Legislative Chair, Tracey Bartels, who will serve as the Board’s Vice Chair;
- City of Newburgh Mayor, Torrance Harvey, who will serve as the Board’s Secretary; and,
- Ulster County Director of Economic Development, Tim Weidemann, who will serve as the Board’s Treasurer.

In addition to announcing a new slate of Officers of the Board, HVRC is pleased to announce the appointment of Carla Castillo as Interim Executive Director. Ms. Castillo previously served as the organization’s Deputy Executive Director.

“The board of the Hudson Valley Regional Council is pleased to have selected Carla Castillo as our incoming Interim Executive Director,” Ms. Gibbons, said. “Ms. Castillo has demonstrated a commitment to the Region and regional leadership through her work on the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program since 2016. We are grateful to outgoing Executive Director Patricia Pomeroy for her leadership and for her commitment to building regional success since 2012. We look forward to working with Ms. Castillo as she builds on Ms. Pomeroy’s successes.”

In her new role with HVRC, Ms. Castillo implements the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Partnership Planning Assistance Program and CARES Economic Resilience Project. She also oversees staff implementation of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) 604(b) Water Quality Planning Program and Climate Leadership Support Services Program as well as the NYSERDA CEC Program. Ms. Castillo and her team have been instrumental in bringing over \$4 million to date in match-free CEC Program grants to participating member counties and local governments. Additionally, she serves as chair of the Town of Cornwall Conservation Advisory Council and is an appointed member of the Orange County Climate Smart Communities Task Force, the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, and the Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee.

"I am honored to have been appointed by the board as HVRC's Interim Executive Director. I look forward to building on Ms. Pomeroy's outstanding leadership and ensuring that HVRC's staff deliver useful and valuable assistance to our member counties and local governments," Ms. Castillo, said. "I am excited to continue my work with the HVRC board, HVRC's passionate staff, and our many partners throughout the Mid-Hudson. HVRC will continue our long-standing practice of working collaboratively as a trusted partner that brings valued resources to our member counties and local governments as well as our partner organizations."

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***The Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) is an organization of county governments established in 1977 comprising Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties. It is one of nine regional councils in the State and one of 650 regional planning and development boards in the country, that, in addition to providing a regional perspective, offer education & outreach, technical assistance, and advocacy to the communities they serve. HVRC delivers these services to its member counties as well as local governments through several federal and State grant programs: US Department of Commerce EDA's Partnership Planning Program, NYS DEC 604(b) Water Quality Planning Program, NYSERDA CEC Program, and NYS DEC Climate Leadership Support Services Program. HVRC also provides regional platforms to our counties through the Materials Management Working Group and to regional sustainability partners through the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Coalition. To learn more, visit: <https://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/>.***