

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***Andy Ahern of Ahern and Associates Teams Up with Former Trucking CEO and Block by Block to Help Rebuild Cedar Rapids, IA***

*Slow moving government and broken promises spur retired trucking CEO into forming Block by Block to raise private and public funding to help Cedar Rapids recover from the Iowa floods of 2008—Ahern to aid in fundraising.*

Phoenix, AZ—For nearly a month during the summer of 2008, the rivers flowing through eastern Iowa rose above their banks and flooded several Iowa towns, dubbing it as many would call it, “Iowa’s Katrina.” Hit hardest was the working community of Cedar Rapids, IA whose infrastructure and residential areas were all but destroyed.

Swift action and a promise of disaster relief funding were called upon by a visiting President and U.S. Senator—but two years removed, few have seen any of the government money or rebuilding efforts promised. Homes lay in shambles and are uninhabitable; leaving once thriving neighborhoods empty and on the verge of ghost town status.

On a recent business trip to Cedar Rapids, Andy Ahern, CEO of Ahern & Associates, LLC witnessed first-hand, the lingering devastation still plaguing the local residents and toured the area with John M. Smith, former CEO of CRST International, Inc.

Unhappy with the governments lack luster efforts, Smith helped form Block by Block, which takes a solutions based approach to identifying and aiding neighborhoods that wish to come back to life. Block by Block successfully reached its 2009 goal of rehabilitating eight residential blocks, with plans for sixteen additional blocks by the end of 2010.

Ahern has recently joined forces with Smith and Block by Block through personal contributions and by undertaking his own fund raising campaign targeting his extensive network of contacts within the trucking and logistics industries.

Ahern comments on Smiths efforts, “John has really taken a proactive approach to rebuilding his local community and I’m calling upon all of my colleagues within the transportation industry to join me in supporting Block by Block’s efforts.”

QUOTE FROM JOHN M. SMITH:

For additional information, please visit <http://www.BlockbyBlockCR.org> or send contributions directly to:

Block By Block  
c/o Affordable Housing Network, Inc.  
5400 Kirkwood Blvd.

Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

**About Ahern & Associates, Ltd.:**

Ahern and Associates is North America's leading trucking and transportation management consulting firm. The skilled consultants at Ahern and Associates specialize in mergers and acquisitions of trucking and logistics companies as well as the restructuring and evaluation of existing carriers that seek to increase operating efficiency and improve profitability. Since 1987, Ahern and Associates has aided hundreds of buyers in the acquisition of trucking and logistics companies throughout the U.S. and Canada as well as assisting many transportation and logistics companies in reducing their overall operating costs and increasing their profitability. For more information, please call 602-242-1030 or visit <http://www.Ahern-Ltd.com>

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