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BGC Advantage Taps Former Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) Chief Executive Officer to Lead Development Division

Hattiesburg, MS, April 9, 2020 -- Demetria Simpson, former Chief Executive Officer of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) has accepted a new senior leadership role at BGC Advantage, a Louisiana-based affordable housing development, consulting, and management firm.

In her role as Vice President of Development, Simpson will accelerate the development of high-quality affordable and market-rate housing. She will leverage her 23 years of Housing and Development expertise to steer the BGC Advantage development team, as the company expands its existing southeast footprint westward.

Simpson's diverse background and deep commitment to affordable housing and development prepared her for her new role at BGC Advantage. The move marks Simpson's return to Mississippi, where she led the redevelopment efforts of affordable housing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina prior to her tenure at LMHA.

"We have seasoned talent already in place and a pipeline of development projects that will more than double our existing portfolio in the next two years. My goal is to develop new talent and streamline systems to help us masterfully achieve this aggressive growth while serving the needs of each community, our partners, and financial investors," shares Simpson.

Simpson will leverage her experience in all aspects of project development, including due diligence, land closings, permitting, grant writing, RFP submissions, construction administration, and professional oversight. She also has considerable expertise with RAD, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC), and other affordable housing programs and initiatives, including the Federal Home Loan Banks program and Community Development Block Grant program.

BGC Advantage CEO Holly Knight is confident in Simpson's ability to manage the company's growing housing portfolio. "I have worked with Demetria in the affordable housing industry for more than 20 years, her wealth of knowledge and impeccable reputation will be a tremendous asset to our team. She is a powerhouse of technical skill, effective leadership, and strategic acumen - exactly what BGC needs to continue to positively impact communities across the contiguous United States and Puerto Rico," said Knight.

Simpson's arrival caps off the company's recruitment efforts of 2019, "The addition of Demetria rounds out our leadership team, which has more than a 100 years of combined experience working at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and various Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)," said Knight. "BGC Advantage is uniquely qualified to guide and train PHAs in their efforts to manage, develop and, preserve their assets through repositioning with voluntary conversion, Section 8, and RAD."

BGC Advantage partners with non-profit and for-profit entities to acquire, create, and rehabilitate affordable and market-rate housing communities. The new position brings an expanded Mississippi presence for the company, which now has offices in Ridgeland and on the Gulf Coast, as well as Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Arkansas. In the past 4 years, BGC Advantage has leveraged more than \$975 million in funding sources toward community development. It has reinvested more than \$46 million in local communities through partner organizations.