



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## BRIDGES FOR A JUST COMMUNITY ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF PUBLIC ALLIES CINCINNATI PROGRAM

*Two Non-Profit Organizations Merge, Combine Resources  
To Better Support Young Adult Community*

CINCINNATI, OH – May 18, 2007 – BRIDGES for a Just Community announces that beginning September 1, 2007, BRIDGES will acquire and operate the Public Allies program in Cincinnati. The new affiliate partnership will bring two non-profit organizations together to improve reach and service to Greater Cincinnati's young adults and emerging leaders – a group that most community leaders agree needs top priority with regards to retention, diversity and leadership opportunities.

"Cincinnati has an outstanding population of young professionals. The merging of two organizations like BRIDGES and Public Allies enhances our ability to support, foster and retain young professionals and emerging leaders through civic engagement. Our City's future will depend upon diverse leaders coming together and sharing varied perspectives and approaches to creating change," said Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory.

"After being approached by Public Allies a year ago and performing a thorough process of due diligence, BRIDGES board and staff are enthusiastic about integrating these two like-minded organizations to enhance delivery of our programs and increase their impact on our community," said Robert C. "Chip" Harrod, executive director of BRIDGES for a Just Community.

"It is great to see two fine non-profits with complimentary missions join forces to provide greater efficiency and more service to Cincinnati USA," said Louise Hughes of Procter & Gamble.

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## **BRIDGES, Public Allies Join**

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“BRIDGES has been a long-time partner of Public Allies Cincinnati and our missions relating to diversity and leadership development are similar. BRIDGES’ staff has been dedicated volunteers and board members, and a former Public Allies national vice president, David Weaver, is the current director of programs for BRIDGES. This long-standing and mutually-rewarding relationship makes this affiliation a perfect fit for us,” said Dayle Deardurff, executive director of Public Allies Cincinnati.

“This affiliation will be an excellent partnership offering new opportunities and resources for our Allies and alumni in Cincinnati,” added Paul Schmitz, Public Allies CEO.

The BRIDGES for a Just Community Board of Directors voted recently to bring Public Allies Cincinnati under their auspices. The program affiliation officially begins September 1, 2007 at the beginning of the Public Allies 2007-2008 program year. Initially, Public Allies Cincinnati will retain its current office space at 2905 Burnet Avenue, although shared office space is being reviewed.

### **About BRIDGES for a Just Community, Inc.**

BRIDGES for a Just Community brings people together to achieve inclusion, equity and justice for all who live and work in the Greater Cincinnati community. As the region’s leading human relations organization, BRIDGES’ vision is to create a respectful, equitable and welcoming community for all citizens through education, advocacy and dialogue. Formerly the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of Greater Cincinnati, BRIDGES for a Just Community has served the region since 1944. For more information, call BRIDGES at 513-381-4660 or visit online at [www.bridgescincinnati.org](http://www.bridgescincinnati.org).

### **About Public Allies**

Public Allies is a leadership development organization created to prepare a new generation of leaders for careers in public life. Public Allies seeks to tap into the often overlooked and tragically undervalued voice of diverse young adults who have traditionally not had access to many of the more conventional leadership opportunities. Founded in 1991 in Washington D.C., Public Allies is operating in 13 communities today. Public Allies became one of the first and most often lauded models for AmeriCorps programs and continues to be funded by AmeriCorps. For more information, call Public Allies Cincinnati at 513-559-1300 or visit online at [www.publicallies.org/cincinnati](http://www.publicallies.org/cincinnati).

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