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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Charlotte Representative Joins U.S. Delegation on Trip to China**

(Charlotte, N.C.) Sharon Reed, Executive Director of the Charlotte International Cabinet will represent the City of Charlotte as part of a delegation of U.S. community leaders on an eight day trip to China, sharing best practices and technologies for clean energy.

“Clean Energy for Sustainable Cities: Sharing Best Practices and Technologies,” is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, Alliance to Save Energy, and Sister Cities International. The trip brings together American mayors and senior municipal officials with their Chinese counterparts to share information about China’s clean energy and sustainability practices, visit model eco-cities, and compare the types of technologies employed in communities in the two countries.

This visit builds on the U.S.-China Ten-Year Framework for Cooperation on Energy and Environment established in 2008. The Framework facilitates the exchange of information and best practices through “eco-partnerships” to foster innovation and develop solutions to the pressing environment and energy challenges both countries face. “Given that this trip visit falls on the heels of the recent visit to China by Mayor Foxx, it presents a great opportunity to continue the dialog regarding sustainability as well as expand economic and cultural ties with China,” Reed explained.

Rob Phocas, Energy and Sustainability Manager for the City of Charlotte stated that the information exchange and sharing of best practices is invaluable as Charlotte continues to develop its energy sector and promote energy efficiency in City operations. “The International Cabinet’s participation in this trip is a great example of the collaborative effort of the City and CIC to promote Charlotte’s energy and economic programs internationally.

Recently appointed as executive director of CIC, Reed has a background in business and economic development, with an industry concentration in the energy sector, and is a member of the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association.

### ***About the Charlotte International Cabinet***

The Charlotte International Cabinet (CIC) promotes Charlotte as an international city and serves as a resource to foster international relationships highlighting Charlotte’s eight sister city partnerships. The CIC works as a consultant to elected officials and city staff on local activities of international scope and serves as a leading resource for promoting international business and international communities. The CIC was created through the merger of the Mayor’s International Cabinet and Charlotte Sister Cities.