



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEADING REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADDS VICE PRESIDENT

Former Tribune Company Executive Joins Chicago Metropolis 2020

CHICAGO – Jack Davis, a former Tribune Co. newspaper editor and publisher, has joined Chicago Metropolis 2020 as vice president, to help advance the regional planning organization's recommendations for enhancing the Chicago region's economic growth and quality of life.

Most recently the publisher, president and CEO of Tribune's Hartford Courant, Davis has also been an editor or publisher at newspapers in New Orleans, Chicago and Virginia.

"Jack understands the Chicago region and the many challenges we must meet if we are to become one of the best places in the world to raise a family and operate a business," said George A. Ranney, Jr., President and CEO of Chicago Metropolis 2020. "His experience with urban issues, especially the harmful consequences of sprawl, and his dedication to improving our region will be tremendous assets for Chicago Metropolis 2020.

"Our work involves educating people about a wide variety of complicated issues like unplanned urban growth, preschool learning, and violence in our neighborhoods," Ranney said. "Jack will help us sharpen both our policies and our messages, and focus more attention on the region's problems and the potential solutions to those problems."

"The smart team at Chicago Metropolis 2020 has already done remarkable work to make the region even more livable and even more competitive globally," said Davis.

"I'm thrilled to join this effort to help the Chicago area enjoy the highest possible quality of life through the 21st century," he said.

Chicago Metropolis 2020 is a nonprofit civic organization created in 1999 by The Commercial Club of Chicago to promote long-term planning, better regional cooperation, and smart investment in the Chicago region and its people.

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Davis was employed by Tribune Company for 23 years, working in the 1980s as metropolitan editor of the Chicago Tribune. In 1987, he moved to Newport News, Va., where he was editor of Tribune's Daily Press until his promotion to president, publisher and CEO in 1994. He returned to Chicago in 1998 as president of Tribune Interactive and in 1999 became vice president for planning of Tribune Publishing Company.

In August 2000, Davis was named president, publisher and CEO of The Hartford Courant, whose news and editorial coverage gave special attention to economic growth, regional planning, land use and urban design. The Courant's years-long editorial-page campaign for state government to adopt an anti-sprawl agenda influenced Gov. M. Jodi Rell's call for sweeping smart-growth programs for Connecticut in late 2006.

He left The Courant at the end of October 2006, and plans to divide his time between Chicago and New Orleans, the city where he began his journalism career. He will be a principal adviser there for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, of which he is a trustee, and will seek ways to assist the city's recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College, Davis received Harvard's Frank Knox Fellowship, which included travel to Asia and studies in India. He also received a Professional Journalism Fellowship to Stanford University and completed the Advanced Executive Program at Northwestern University's Newspaper Management Center.

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On the web: <http://www.chicagometropolis2020.org>