FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Carroll Business Path… Start your business here

Thursday, February 9, 2012 – The Commissioners announced their restructuring of the Department of Economic Development which will, in part, support the newly created Carroll Business Path. The Carroll Business Path is a collaboration of services and resources supporting small business start-up and growth including Carroll County Government Department of Economic Development, Carroll Community College’s Miller Center for Small Business, the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Small Business Development Center and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

The Carroll Business’s Path is designed to increase business creation, entrepreneurship and business growth in Carroll County through individualized access to a supportive network of organizations providing information, education, counseling and referrals.

The Carroll Business Path will serve to coordinate the promotion of all small business events, educational offerings and networking opportunities to maximize resources, reduce duplication of services, and reduce confusion to the public. It will establish user friendly business services with a location at Carroll Community College’s Miller Center for Small Businesses. A new function of “Navigator” will customize the Business Path to individual client needs and track their progress in order to report data on Carroll Business Path successes. By implementing this new cooperative effort the partners hope to increase successful new business start-up in the County.

The Miller Center at Carroll Community College will be the physical location for most small business related activities and will house Amy Wallace, the Small Business Development Councilor. The “Navigator” will guide interested clients through the process and advise them of the services and opportunities available from each partner.

The Miller Center will also be responsible for all training activities related to small business development. While the SBDC representative will work with new and existing businesses assisting

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: The Americans With Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact Jolene G. Sullivan, The Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator, 410-386-3600 or 1-888-302-8978, or MD Relay 7-1-1/800-735-2258 or email jsullivan@ccg.carr.org as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

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them with their financial, marketing, production, organization, engineering and technical problems and feasibility studies and the Chamber will be responsible for all networking events.

Beyond the initial consultation and advisory session, the county Department of Economic Development will be responsible for retention, dealing with MD Dept. of Business and Economic Development and coordinating with the County Department of Planning to ensure that projects move forward through that process.

Other groups such as the Carroll Technology Council and the Business Employment Resource Center may also be involved with the business owner as the owner's needs dictate.

The Commissioners and all the partners involved with the Carroll Business Path believe this coordinated approach provides an innovative and exciting opportunity for new and growing businesses in Carroll County.