

## **SECRETARY COHEN ANNOUNCES NEW LEGISLATIVE STAFF AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Secretary Thaddeus Cohen today named Leonard Zeiler as the Department’s new Legislative Affairs Director.

“Leonard brings to the Department great knowledge and experience in the fields of growth management and environmental protection,” said Secretary Cohen. “He will be a tremendous asset to the agency and state as we move forward towards the 2006 legislative session.”

Zeiler most recently served in Governor Bush’s Office of Policy and Budget. During his tenure, he served as a chief policy analyst in the Governor’s environmental policy unit. Zeiler has played an important role in shaping state policy regarding environmental protection and water management in Florida. Previously, he served as a Legislative Analyst for the Florida Senate and an Auditor in the Auditor General’s office.

Zeiler received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and Accounting from The Florida State University. He replaces Palmer Mason who left DCA to pursue a career in the private sector.

Additionally, Secretary Cohen today announced the appointment of Melissa Joiner as the Department’s Deputy Legislative Affairs Director. Joiner most recently served as the Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs for the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Previously, she worked for Congressmen Ed Whitfield of Kentucky, coordinating travel and supporting communications and policy projects.

For more information regarding the Florida Department of Community Affairs, please visit [www.dca.state.fl.us](http://www.dca.state.fl.us).

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