

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baldwin County Economy in Top 4% in 2008 POLICOM Rankings

Each year, POLICOM Corporation of Palm City, Florida, analyzes the economic strength of 366 Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and 574 Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

According to the company's ECONOMIC STRENGTH RANKINGS-2009, and accompanying information presented by William H. Fruth of POLICOM, Baldwin County, Alabama (designated as the Daphne-Fairhope-Foley Micropolitan Area) ranked 21st out of the 574 Micros—putting it in the top 4% for the second year. Fruth's report states "The top rated areas have had rapid, consistent growth in both size and quality for an extended period of time."

After analyzing said reports, Robert Ingram, President of the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance, relates that this is the sixth consecutive year that Baldwin County has ranked in the Top 40 Micro Areas. "POLICOM measures 23 different economic factors over a twenty year period to determine its ranking. The formulas determine how an economy has behaved over an extended period of time. Data stretching from 1988 to 2007 was used for this study." Ingram stated.

"Growth rates, including some 'moving averages' in certain categories are combined with pure numbers and numerical growth in other categories to rank the Micro counties in over 100 categories. Baldwin County placed in the Top 10 in two of the categories, is the #1 ranked Micro in Alabama and is the highest ranked Micro in a 6 state region, which includes Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas and Alabama.

"The Baldwin County EDA's Board and Staff are grateful to Baldwin County's great public and private leadership, and to our investors who play such a vital role in creating a strong, viable economy which continues to rank among the best in the US," concluded Ingram.

The Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance is a public/private partnership, which works with all five chambers of commerce, our 13 towns & cities, their Industrial Development Boards, and our county government on economic development initiatives. Our mission is to implement an economic development program that improves the standard of living and quality of life for the residents of Baldwin County.

The full report is posted on www.policom.com.

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