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City of Dayton Announces Plan to Open Multi-Agency, One-Stop Business Resource Center

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The City of Dayton today moved forward with creating a new business retention and expansion center that will serve as the City's central location for serving the needs of the business community. The new facility will be called the "Dayton Business Resource Center."

To accommodate the new Center, the City Commission today approved spending \$120,000 to renovate 2,325 square feet of space on the first floor of a facility at 371 W. Second Street, which is already home to the City's Department of Building Services. The first floor area to be remodeled is now occupied by the Dayton Homeownership Center, which is relocating to space at 205 E. First Street.

Creating the all-inclusive, one-stop Business Resource Center was one of the key recommendations of a study conducted last year to evaluate the community's overall economic development delivery system. The study, conducted in partnership with Montgomery County and the Dayton Development Coalition, resulted in recommendations emphasizing the need for inter-agency cooperation to spur successful business retention and expansion efforts.

The Dayton Business Resource Center will accommodate staff from each of the various economic development agencies that typically play a role in providing services to companies in the city. Stakeholder agencies which will be represented in the new Center include the City of Dayton's Office of Economic Development, CityWide Development Corporation, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Dayton Partnership.

Each agency will assign staff to regularly work out of the Business Resource Center to meet with clients, share information among other partner organizations, and coordinate on-going business outreach efforts. Bart Schidecker, Special Projects Administrator in the City's Office of Economic Development, will manage the day-to-day operations of the Center.

Scheduled to officially open January 5, the Dayton Business Resource Center will offer the gamut of business support services, including personal business outreach visits, plan review, zoning guidance, permitting information, financing referrals, and business incentive education. Free parking for clients will be available behind the building.

“The purpose of the new Dayton Business Resource Center is to provide the full menu of support services for businesses looking to re-locate into the city as well as for businesses who want to maintain or expand their current operations,” Mayor Rhine McLin said. “Because it brings together a number of economic development related agencies, the Center will help simplify what some business customers have considered to be a rather disjointed process. Instead of having to navigate through a variety of support organizations, this new facility will serve as a convenient, easy, one-stop location for businesses to get whatever help they need to be successful in Dayton.”

“We are excited about the inter-agency cooperation we have witnessed in creating the Dayton Business Resource Center,” said Mike Herr, Chair of CityWide Development Corporation and a member of the Mayor’s Council on Economic Development. “By bringing many diverse services under one roof, we can eliminate duplicate efforts, cut down on valuable response time, and be better prepared to meet the needs of our business customers. The end result should be a smoother and more efficient service delivery system that demonstrates the city of Dayton is open for business!”

“Businesses today have a host of options open to them when it comes to deciding where to locate,” said Ron Budzik, who serves as a Downtown Dayton Partnership board member, as a consultant for the Dayton Business Committee, and as a member of the Mayor’s Council on Economic Development. “High on the list is a community that offers excellent customer service and responsiveness. Creating the new Dayton Business Resource Center will definitely help meet those expectations.”

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